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by J. M. K. Guinn

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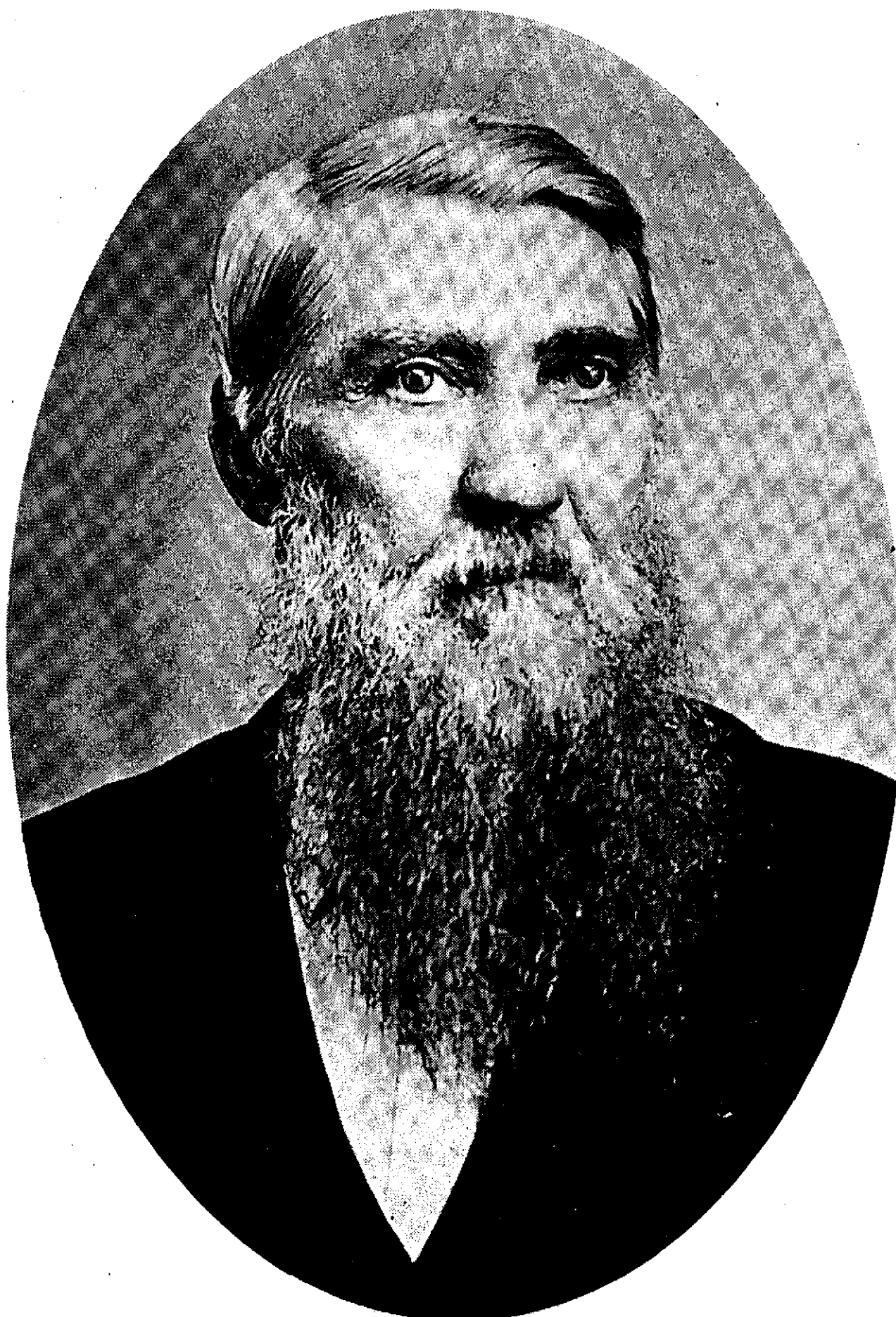
A Historical Sketch of LaFayette, Alabama

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EDITORIAL

This, the Fall Issue of the **Alabama Historical Quarterly**, 1942, carries a history of Randolph County, by J. M. K. Guinn, which was first published in the **Randolph Toiler**, Wedowee, Alabama, in 1896 and "Reminiscences of the Early Days in Chambers County", by E. G. Richards, first published in the **LaFayette Sun**, during the year 1890. Clippings from the newspapers carrying these latter articles were in the hands of the son of the writer, Mr. Stephen Richards, at the time they were borrowed for copying by the late Thomas M. Owen, Director of the Department of Archives and History. It is the purpose of the present Director of the Department to reproduce a number of County histories by early writers in possession of the Department, either in manuscript form or in the way of newspaper clippings. Issues I and II of Volume Four, carrying the History of Coosa County by the late Rev. George E. Brewer, have created a great deal of interest throughout that County and neighboring Counties. The Editor therefore feels justified in making these contributions to local history available to present day residents in the several Counties that have been and others that will be published in the **Quarterly**.

Editor.



J. M. K. GUINN

J. M. K. GUINN

JAMES MILES KILLIAN GUINN, author of this history of Randolph County, published in the Randolph Toiler, Wedowee, Alabama, in 1896, the third son of James W. and Catharine Ann (Dobson) Guinn, was born November 5, 1835, at Franklin, Macon County, N.C., and died at Langdale, Alabama, June 8, 1903 and is buried at Wedowee. He was educated in the common schools and in 1858 removed to Texas but returned to Alabama and volunteered for service in the Confederate Army and was mustered into service at Montgomery, July 28, 1861. He arrived at Richmond, Va., a few days later and was made Lieutenant of Company K, 13th Alabama Volunteers and afterwards promoted to Captain. The Colonel of the Regiment was Birket D. Fry, a Californian, who was at the time living in Tallassee, Ala., holding a position with the Tallassee Mills. Mr. Guinn's regiment was in A. P. Hill's Division under Stonewall Jackson. He lost his left arm at Cold Harbor in the seven days fight. He was at Chancellorsville, in the Wilderness Battle and at the seige of Yorktown. He married first Emily F. Burton, at Wedowee, Ala., February 27, 1862, and three children were born of that union, Emily, Katy and Robert. His wife died November 6, 1865, at Alto, Texas. The next year he returned to Alabama and on February 21, 1869, married at Wedowee, Mary F. Foster, daughter of Byrd Culbertson. This wife died August 1, 1907. Mr. Guinn was a farmer, owned and edited the Enterprise Publisher, Wedowee, from 1873 until 1875. He was County Superintendent of Education between 1873 and 1879; was in the mercantile business in Roanoke, 1879 until 1883 and was U. S. Storekeeper and Guager under Cleveland's first administration.

RANDOLPH COUNTY

THE RED MAN'S HOME
THE WHITE MAN'S EDEN
By J. M. K. GUINN

Number One

Written for The Randolph Toiler, Wedowee, 1896

Alabama was admitted to the Union, December 14, 1819, and South western, West, North and North eastern sectional territory, where accessible to navigable water courses, was rapidly settled. Thirteen years afterwards (May 2, 1832,) a treaty was formulated with the Creek Indians through Chief McIntosh, which shortly after cost him his life. And on December 18, 1832, all this territory was organized into new counties, Randolph being one of them; and almost the entire eastern part of Alabama was the home of the Red Man—a perfect Eden—in length North and South more than 200 miles, width averaged 75 miles. North rugged and mountainous gradually descends toward the South into rolling formation of valleys and flat, low stretches to the Chattahoochee river. Northeast rich deposits of gold, copper, iron and mica; clear bold springs, branches, creeks and rivers; fine timbers, fertile soil, mild climate, pure air and good health.

In Randolph County sixty-two years ago the river, creek and branch bottoms and their hillsides were covered with reed, cane and cane-brakes, the valleys and hills with grass and vegetation two and three feet high, the high flat ridges and hills with pine, oak, hickory, chestnut and chinquepin promiscuously: hickory nuts, acorns, chestnuts and chinquepins could be found plentiful after the woods were burned in March and April. We have raked up a hat full within a yard's space.

The chinequpin grew in forests sometimes for miles in length and as thick as a plum orchard, but not so high with limbs, bent into umbrella shape loaded down with fruit, and when rippeden, the grandest and most interesting sight the eye ever beheld.

Grapes (summer) grew in rich hollows and on hillsides, and baskets full have been gathered in December and January.

Walnuts, hazlenuts, red and black haws were plentiful.

Whortle and gooseberries, when not burned over in the fall and winter, were never failing crops, on which, man, beast and bird lived luxuriously.

New ground (land cultivated the first year) made fine corn; wheat, oats, potatoes, pumpkins and watermelons grew to perfection, cotton but little planted.

Horses needed no feed unless worked. Cattle wintered well, their owners drove great herds to market and kept the people supplid with money. Hogs kept fat in the woods and the supply of meat bountiful.

Game was plentiful; sometimes as many as 15 or 20 deer could be seen herded together; a large drove of wild turkeys was a common thing; squirrels (gray and fox) opossums and rabbits were numerous; wild ducks, pigeons and black birds came in flocks and wintered here.

Fish of all kinds, sizes and qualities filled the creeks and rivers, and could be seen 8 and 10 feet deep swimming and darting about; and last, the little bee, with its rich deposits stored away in mountain oak and pine, though plentiful, hard to find.

With all these good things to eat and enjoy, the pioneers had the wolf, cat, fox, opossum, mink, owl, hawk, as well as the cruel revengeful Indians and dishonest, treacherous white man to watch.

What thought can interest you more than that to read about the Red man's home and the Whote man's Eden, and as it comes from the hand of God?

COUNTY ESTABLISHED

Number Two

The General Assembly, in 1832, passed an act establishing Randolph County, as follows, to wit: That all that tract of county bound as follows, to wit: Beginning at a point where the line dividing Townships 16 and 17 cross the line dividing

Ranges 8 and 9, East of the Meridian of Huntsville; thence east along said line to the Eastern boundary line of the State; thence along said boundary down to the line dividing Coffee's and Freeman's Survey; thence due West along said line to the aforesaid line dividing Ranges 8 and 9; thence along said line due North to the beginning; shall constitute one separate and distinct county to be called and known by the name of Randolph. Approved December 18, 1832.

Randolph County at that time embraced Townships 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and North fractional part of 22, and Ranges 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, the latter two being fractional on account of the Georgia State line on the East. This made the county about $31\frac{1}{2}$ miles North and South, $24\frac{1}{4}$ on North end and 30 1-3 on the South end; an average of $27\frac{3}{8}$ miles wide, with an area of 862 5-16 square miles or 551,880 square acres.

Randolph County is situated in the Coosa Land District, which is all that tract of country east of the Meridian of Huntsville, with Township line running East and West and numbered from North to South from 1 to 22; and range lines running north and south and numbered from west to east, from 1 to 14.

The line dividing Randolph and Chambers counties is the line dividing Coffee's and Freeman's Survey and makes Township 22 fractional.

A Township is six miles square, bound on north and south by township lines and on the east and west by range lines, and with 36 Sections each one mile square; containing 640 acres divided into 16 quarter Sections or 80 acre lots.

Sections in a township are designated by numbers commencing at the northeast corner and run from 1 to 36 consecutively; sections are divided into quarter sections, thus: Ne 1-4 Nw 1-4 Sw 1-4 Se 1-4.

Range one is a true meridian line east from Huntsville and runs north and south; all range lines or sub-division lines running north and south are parallel, and with the same variations. Surveyors generally in order to find the variations of a section commence at the southeast corner of Section 36 and run north: this is supposed to give them the correct variations of that section and range line. It is said, by old surveyors, the variations change every fifty years from east to west and vice versa.

The Coffee and Freeman line dividing Randolph and Chambers counties is neither township nor a sectional, but a made line, and that gives fractional townships, fractional quarter sections which are designated by letters A. B. C. etc. The line dividing Alabama and Georgia is another made line with a variation of about 1-5 of a mile to the section west of north running north; this also gives fractional townships, sections and quarter sections. Little and big Tallapoosa rivers gives fractional quarter section; so it happens these fractions are some times larger than quarter sections, but generally smaller. T 21, R. 13, Sec. 1, contains only 0.17 of an acre; Tp. 21, R. 14, Sec. 3, contains only 2.97 acres. Robert W. Higgins entered Sec. 1, Tp. 21, R. 13, and Benjamin Zachary entered Sec. 3, Tp. 21, R. 14.

In 1868 the General Assembly in establishing new counties cut off Township 17 on the north to Cleburne and Range 9 on the west to Clay. Now the county from north to south is $25\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length and an average of $21\frac{3}{8}$ miles wide with an area of 545 1-16 square miles, or 348,840 acres.

There was a treaty made March 2, 1832, with the Creek Indians which gave to each Indian a half Section 320 acres to be selected and located by him; with this the United States reserved the 16 sections for school purposes and the rest was subject to entry.

ORGANIZATION

Number Three

The time of the County's advent into existence and organic sisterhood, is one of the most important historical characteristic of her future.

It is conceded where there is an existence there was a beginning. Therefore, in order to be as accurate as the facts will justify, in the absence of record evidence, it will be necessary to use circumstantial evidence when it will throw light on the point desired to be established, especially as to time of organization.

The first official and authentic evidence we find is the act of the legislature establishing the County's boundary, and approved December 18, 1832.

The second is a power of attorney given by John Camp, of Randolph County, Alabama, to Neil Furgerson of Carroll County, Georgia, and dated January 9th, 1833.

Attested: Archibald Sawyer,
J. C. C.

These two recorded official acts we think, will establish the time of the county's organization, and her legal and official executive control and jurisdiction.

The law provided that the legislature should elect these judges, but in case of vacancy the governor appointed them. Just when Judge Sawyer was sworn into office is a mere matter of conjecture; however it must have been between December 18, 1832, and January 9, 1833, an interval of 22 days. The legislature having the power to elect these judges, being then in session, and having passed an act designating the boundary, and names given to Benton, Talladega, Randolph, Chambers, Coosa, Tallapoosa, Russell, Macon, Barbour and Sumpter counties, it suggests itself as reasonable to suppose the candidates for County Court Judges were present then, or had on file an application asking the election and were notified and went immediately to Tuscaloosa, the State Capital, and were sworn in.

There was no railroad in Alabama then, nor is it reasonable to suppose any post office in this wild unsettled territory; besides it would take a person by private conveyance (horseback) three to four days, and perhaps longer, as there was only one wagon or any other kind of road, and that was the McIntosh Trail, in this section of country. To go from Tuscaloosa at that time would have been on an Indian or cow trail route.

There was no member from any one of these counties in the legislature, for they were not organized then; but there may have been, and no doubt were representative petitioners sent from each, and Judge Sawyer may have been, and more than

likely was one of them. Otherwise, these representative commissioners may have returned bringing the Judge's commission or notified him and he went immediately to Tuscaloosa and was sworn in. But, still, we are not justified in saying whether Judge Sawyer was sworn in, in December 1832, or January 1833. There was, so far as we know, no one authorized by law officially, to administer an oath or qualify Judge Sawyer here at that time and the Judge had to go somewhere else to be qualified. We suppose December, 1832, and at Tuscaloosa.

THE COUNTY SEAT

Number Four

This subject has elicited no little discussion as to the identical place where the first court was held, and it had been questioned as to who was wrong.

It takes facts to make history-traditions and suppositions are not always facts; but our readers must indulge us if we should have to use some traditions as facts, to get a seat for the county, or else leave her standing first on one foot and then on the other until 1835. It is not reasonable to suppose though, young, active and frolicsome, she did not sit down somewhere, whether under a tree, on the grass or a rock; for either would have been commodious, while her other and special wards domiciled in hollow trees and under wagon beds for safe keeping and quick delivery.

The first County Seat was at or near Hedgeman Triplett's ferry on the Big Tallapoosa river, the present Blake's ferry, ten miles west of Wedowee.

Commissioners Court, April Term, 1834: "It is ordered (by the court) that Hedgeman Triplett gets the establishment of a ferry boat on the Tallapoosa river at or near the County seat in Randolph County".

Attested: George McKaskle, Willis Wood,
Archibald Sawyer, J. C. C.
Wm. Vardeman, Clerk.

While the above is official evidence of a County seat somewhere "at or near", it does not locate definitely and we introduce tradition, which says, "The first court was held on the bank of the river at Triplett's ferry under a large oak tree; that Judge Sawyer set on a log and leaned against the tree while presiding, and that tree is of course the first county seat.

Another tradition is handed down to us and says: "The first court was held under a large mulberry tree near Triplett's house, which was more than one hundred yards southwest of the ferry: that Triplett furnished the court with seats and grub, and that was the county seat".

A third tradition says: "The first court was held on the flat rock a mile west of Triplett's ferry and this was the county seat."

Now let us see if the minutes of the April term of the Commissioner's court, 1834, when carefully read in connection with the traditions won't reconcile as to time and place and establish the first court and county seat. There were three courts, viz: County, Commissioner's and Circuit; the first county Court was held November, 1833; the first Commissioner's was held February, 1834, and the first Circuit Court was held April 15th 1834. An act of the legislature 1832-3 says: "The County Courts shall be holden on the 3rd Mondays in June and November each and every year; Courts of roads and revenue February, May, September and December; Circuit Court shall commence on the fourth Mondays after third Mondays in March and September."

Now, if there was a Circuit Court held in 1833, it would have been held on the 14th day of October, only four days after the first Circuit Clerk and Sheriff had entered on duty, and no jury drawn nor papers served, and it is not reasonable to suppose a Circuit Court was held under these circumstances in 1833. There had been no County nor Commissioners Court held prior to that time, no jurors drawn nor no one to do so until October 10th, four days prior to the time designated by law to hold a Circuit Court. These facts justify us in saying there was no Circuit Court held in 1833.

THE COUNTY SEAT

Number Five

The law made provision for two Commissioners to locate the County Seat; in the absence of any act of theirs we take the minutes of the Commissioners Court. There was no point designated in these minutes other than indefinitely "at or near" Triplett's ferry.

The County Court was the first court held, and that was November 1833, and under the oak tree that stood on the west bank of Big Tallapoosa river at Triplett's ferry; and why? The character and habits of the Judge and Sheriff of that court could not have desired or needed more or better accommodations than the shade and shelter of a large tree, for wherever held, it was in the open air and outside of any building. Under all circumstances, it is reasonable to believe Hedgeman Triplett's County Surveyor and owner of the ferry, was the only house in miles of there, and furnished the Court with what accommodations he had.

There were only two cases docketed for trial at this court; Ibba Taylor vs James B. Jones, and Ibba Taylor vs Silas Taylor; both suits were dismissed at defendant's cost. John W. Rutton security for cost; with Archibald Sawyer, an old bachelor as Judge, Wm. Hightower, Sheriff; A. O. Nix and Freeman. Attorney. A Philadelphia lawyer couldn't make believe that court went a mile to sit on a rock instead of the grass at the ferry. No, not ten steps further than the fulfillment of the requirements of the law did that honorable court go. The law said "at or near", and here sit and sat the first court of Randolph County.

The tradition that claimed the first court held under the mulberry tree was doubtless the first Commissioners Court held, and that was February, 1834. But it would be very plausible and reasonable to believe the first Circuit Court Judge would select the flat rock as a more suitable place to hold his court, and we are persuaded to believe that this was done, and that court was held April 15, 1834. The minutes of the Commissioners Court says, "at or near". This left it discretionary with the

court which designated no one certain place—anywhere near the ferry. With these facts, the supposition corroborates the tradition, viz: The first court was County Court, and was held November, 1833, under a large oak on the west bank of Big Tallapoosa river at Hedgeman Triplett's ferry. The first Commissioners, but second court, was held February, 1834, under a large mulberry tree at or near Hedgeman Triplett's dwelling house, south about 100 yards from the ferry. The first Circuit, but third court, was held on the flat rock one mile west of the ferry, April, 1834. The character of the courts, the probable attendance, the time of year held and the conditions of the weather had much to do with the place located. The records show as facts one, if not two, terms of the County Court, November, 1833, and June, 1834, two terms of the Commissioners Court February and April, 1834, and one term of the Circuit Court, April, 1834, at or near Triplett's ferry; but does that fact within itself establish a county seat anywhere? Certainly not, other than temporarily; else there would be a County Court or oak tree county seat, a Commissioners Court or Mulberry tree County Dist., a Circuit Court or flat rock county seat. We have failed up to the present to find any name for the county seat: it is rather suggested, however, to call it "Triplett's". We find there was an act for the organization of certain counties, approved January 12th, 1833, which made it the duty of the citizens of such counties as shall not have had commissioners appointed by the legislature, to locate the seat of justice in their respective counties, to elect said commissioners. Section 8 of said act is as follows: "And be it further enacted, That the Commissioners for the counties aforesaid, shall locate the county seat of justice of said counties respectively, at or near the center of said counties, if practicable, if not, at the most eligible point, not exceeding six miles from the center of said counties." Triplett's ferry was more than six miles from the center. There was no Commissioners appointed by the legislature for Randolph County, neither was there an election held as provided, on the first Monday of March, 1833. There may have been an election for these Commissioners in August, at the time the first county officers were elected in 1833, as we find the Clerk of County and Circuit Courts and Sheriff were elected then.

We are inclined to think there was only one Circuit Court held at the flat rocks, and the county seat was moved to Wedowee some time during the summer of 1834. Our reasons for be-

lieving so are these: The law required the county seat within 6 miles of the center. Tripplett's ferry was more than that, while Wedowee was within one and a half miles of the center. No one had the right to locate or remove it but the Commissioners. There was but one house at or near the ferry while there was an Indian town and several whites: Joseph Benton, Asa Hearn and others at Wedowee.

COUNTY SEAT MOVED TO WEDOWEE

First Court at Wedowee Held in an Indian Chief's Wigwam

Number Six

Some time in the fall of 1834 or spring of 1835 the county seat of Randolph county was moved to Wedowee.

Tradition says: The first court held at Wedowee was held in Wedowee's wigwam, a chief at the time who lived in the Indian villiage a half mile northeast of the present town of Wedowee.

We suppose from what tradition says, his name originally was Wah-wah-nee or swift runner, Wah-hah-tah-nee or the fast runner, Wah-kee-bah-nah or the hard runner and Wah-wah-shee or the quick runner. Tradition, however, gives the following interpretations to the name Wedowee: First, rain or falling water; second, rolling or swift water; third, swift running water. We find it was written by some as Wa-daw-wee; others Wid-o-wee. Wah-wah-nee, swift runner, a chief from which the creek took its name, and the town from the creek, it seems to be conceded. Wah-wah-nee, or swift runner, would, in our opinion, characterize the name of a chief Indian, and at the same time describe the creek clearly and exactly, for it is a swift runner. Rain or falling water does not describe the character of the creek, other than clear and pure. Rolling or swift water would do very well as a description of the creek but not so well for the name of the man.

We found, seven years after Wedowee had been located and named, race tracks near the town, and said to have been used

by the Indians. These race tracks were on the lower bottom field of Mr. William Traylor's the east and lower end of these race tracks were not far from the spring and run within a few paces of the present cotton house on the creek, and the west or upper end stopped near where a walnut tree now stands. These race tracks suggest another good reason for the name "swift runner". To the south of these race tracks on a ridge, and opposite and north of the "ten foot hole", there was about 100 feet square, smooth and hard as a floor apparently, where it is said, the Indians had their brand dance.

At the time, tradition says the first court was held, the Indians were friendly with the whites. As you know there had been a treaty made with the Creeks on January 24, 1826, and a part of them had gone west. On March 2, 1832, the other Creeks in Alabama and the Muskogees of Georgia made their last treaty with the United States.

Rolly and Chilly McIntosh signed this last treaty. In the treaty of March 24, 1832, it was provided the Creeks should be paid for their lands, except half sections which were set apart for each head of family, to be selected by themselves on which they were to reside until their final departure west, the reserve then to be subject to sale by the United States and the proceeds to be paid to them the same as the other lands. The treaty provided protection in person and property. Under these considerations it would be very reasonable to suppose a court was held in Wah-wah-nee's wigwam. J. W. Bradshaw, who lives near Wedowee said to us a few days since: "I was at the first and last Circuit Court ever held in the Courthouse at Wedowee." Knowing he came to Wedowee in 1836, and there had been Circuit Courts held at Triplett and Wedowee, as the records show, we were about to question his recollection, for his word is unimpeachable, when we happened to think it was a sell, of which he delights in; and, sure enough it was, for he qualified the "first" and "last" court with the phrase "in the Courthouse". There was no Courthouse in Wedowee until after March 14, 1836. The town was surveyed and platted by Hedgeman Triplett December 1st, 1835, and the first sale of town lots was March 14, 1836. The first lot sold was 13, on which Dr. J. R. Hoods' dwelling now stands. It was bid off by W. H. Cunningham, Circuit Court Clerk. William Hightower, then Sheriff, bid off at the same sale lot 108 and

during 1836 a log Courthouse was built on this lot, near where R. T. West's store stands at present. So, J. W. Bradshaw was no doubt correct when he said; "I was at the first Circuit courts ever held in the court house at Wedowee". We quote, J. W. Bradshaw again; he says: "The minutes of the court were kept on bark". At first, we thought he was talking through his hat, but when we began to think about how few white families there were here, no post office in the county and the nearest trading point perhaps at Wetumpka, then in Montgomery county, how strict the United States laws were over trade agents who were under \$5,000 bonds and the little use they had for writing paper, we decided to believe him. Imagine, if you please how far from anywhere but home these people were and how many other things more needful than paper and you will believe him too. This accounts for the missing official records in the Clerk's office.

FIRST COURT HOUSE A LOG CABIN

JAIL BUILT IN 1839

Cost of \$1,000 — Contract Let For a New Court House in 1839

Number Seven

Under the treaty of March 24th, 1832, Che-wasti-hadjo held the north half section 3, township 20, range 11, on which the Indian village was situated. Judge Archibald Sawyer entered the east $\frac{1}{2}$ southwest, and west $\frac{1}{2}$ southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ section 3, township 20, range 11, October 5th, 1836, on which the town of Wedowee was then located. The legislature in December 1832, in the act establishing the boundaries of the new counties, you should remember, made provision for two commissioners to locate the county seats. We have no official information as to whom or when these commissioners were elected yet it is reasonable to suppose such were elected at the August election in 1833; and temporarily located Triplett's ferry as the county seat, afterwards finding it was not near enough (within six miles) to the center of the county, and after the April term of the circuit court held near Triplett on the Flat rock, selected

Wedowee. The supposition is that the court held in Wah-wah-nee's wigwam was the October term of the circuit court in 1834. It was, at least, one step towards higher civilization—from a rock to a wigwam—not only with the red man but white pioneers. It was an honor no doubt, Chief Wah-wah-nee and his people appreciated and certainly an act of kindness and liberality to the honorable court. We can't tell where the courts were held in 1835; if not held in Wah-wah-nee's wigwam or some other wigwam or white man's house, most likely out under a tree in the open air. For awhile the commissioners had selected the present location, the town was not platted until December 1st, 1835, nor lots sold until March 14, 1836. The spring term of the circuit court held afterwards was in April, and no doubt in the new court house. Sheriff Hightower's duty was to secure a place for the court and as he owned the lot on which the house was built, and in the absence of any record or other evidence or information, the county paid for it. It must have been a private investment without dimensions or accommodations specified more fully than, "it was for the use of the court". With dirt floor, three holes cut for windows and one for a door, without a shutter to either, no seat for the clerk or seats for the jury. Another and higher step or object lesson of civilization from an Indian wigwam to a pioneer's cabin. What need for door shutters, seats for jurors or table for clerk with a bachelor judge, clerk and Sheriff and the proceedings of the court kept on hickory and poplar bark with lead pencils and the prisoners jailed in a hollow tree or wagon bed turned bottom up—Sheriff Hightower bossing the job? We find the following order of the commissioners court:

February Term, 1837.

It is ordered by the court that the sheriff (Willis Wood) be instructed and required to have such repairs made to the court house as seems most necessary, viz; A judge's seat, clerk's table and seats for the accommodation of the jury and with a good and substantial door shutter, and that said work be completed by the circuit court next ensuing and that he present his account to the next term of this court for allowance.

Wm. McKnight)	
Wm. Mullaley)	Com.
Thomas Blake)	

Hundreds of The Toiler's readers may imagine the pioneer fathers were old fogies when they read about a dirt floor, court house without shutters to door or seats to sit on. We won't think anything strange if they do, for there are but few of them who know anything about pioneer life and inconveniences. "May be so" when we tell you, you won't "think so". There was no saw nor grist mill nearer than Dickson's, the old Jacob Eichelberger, and now James McCosh mill in the extreme south east corner of the county. We don't know whether Dickson sawed lumber then or not. The business and dwelling houses were built out of logs or slate 6 or 8 feet long, split timber fashion and wattle in. Whip saws that two good hands would cut 300 feet of plank per day, with broad axes in the hands of skilled laborers were a great help toward building until saw mills run by water were introduced. Jacob Peeler put in a mill 1 mile east and at the present W. W. Dodson mill place, and sawed lumber and ground corn and wheat and new frame houses went up all about.

Congress passed an act, approved July 2nd, 1836, locating and establishing the following mail routes: From Franklin, Heard county, Georgia, to Wedowee; from LaGrange in Troup county, Georgia, via Dickson's Mills, Wedowee, to Talladega; from Jacksonville via White Planes and Boiling Springs, to Wedowee, from LaFayette, via Wedowee, Sawyer's ferry on Big Tallapoosa river, via White Plains, to Jacksonville. An act approved July 7, 1838, the following routes were established: From Montreal, via Wedowee, to Carrollton, Georgia; from Hickory Level, via Adrian's ferry to Arbacooche Gold Mines, and Canal Gold Mines, to Franklin, Ga.

At the September term, 1837, of the Commissioners court an order was passed to advertise town lots for sale on October 30th. This notice was ordered published in "The Southern Register", at Jacksonville, Alabama, and the "Columbus Sentinel": at the same term a contract was let to build a new jail. (Hightower's hollow poplar tree jail was too small to facilitate the dispatch of business and comfort of its inmates we suppose). Leonard W. Young bid off the contract at \$1,000. Jeff Faulkner and Jephtha V. Smith, County Building Commissioners, reported the completion and acceptance of the jail December 14, 1839.

At the August term 1839, a contract for building a court house let. Hightower's court house like his jail, couldn't accomodate the court and facilitate business. Isaac Baker bid it off at \$2,000, to be completed by August, 1840. It was received September 5th, 1840. At the May term, 1839, there was an order to advertise another sale of town lots in the Jacksonville Republican; that grand and true patriot, James F. Gran, was it's editor.

On January 1st, 1840, that true and tried, first and most faithful of all county judges, Archibald Sawyer, retired to private life after serving from January 1st, 1833 to January 1st, 1840, seven long, honest, faithful years, and so far as we know or the official records show, honored, loved and respected in public and private life. And with his retirement, a name associated with him from the first to the last official act ceased to be officially recognized as the county seat—it was Wedowee.

Andy Burnham, county judge and McDonald, county seat January 1st, 1840.

RANDOLPH'S COUNTY SEAT

NAME CHANGED FROM WEDOWEE TO MCDONALD

FIRST COUNTY OFFICIALS

Number Eight

We told you in number seven series that Wedowee had been changed to McDonald on January 1st, 1840. Now we tell you by whom and why it was done.

There was a keen, shrewed, well educated young man who had a great deal of curiosity, ambition and adventure in his make up with plenty of energy and sport which he never allowed to lie dormant. This young man's name was Francis M. Perryman. He held a position which brought him in contact with all classes, and of course his inventive genius led him to play on the credulity of the curious. His first step was to change High Pine to Roanoke; then Chulafinne, and being successful, he petitioned

the Post Master General to change Wedowee to McDonald. Of course the citizens were wrathful, but ignorant of the course of relief. They were not up to the ways of petitioning, nor did they know why the names of these post offices had been changed. The joke is too good to keep. Finally letters to their congressman began to visit Washington and in one was a request to have McDonald changed back to Wedowee. This of course led to the exposure which brought before the people a petition with a large number of names asking and praying for the change. Every man, woman, boy and negro that was known to young Frank was on that petition. He had every post office in the county named to suit his own fancy. His first petition was an experiment more through curiosity than anything else. Finding a key to unlock Uncle Sam's post office officials, he utilized it; so you now know why the change in the name of your county seat was made.

We find when Jeff Faulkner entered the office of Judge of County Court, his first official act recognized Wedowee as the name of the county seat, and from that time since it still goes as Wedowee. It was just four years, and during Judge Andrew Burnham and John D. Bowen's judgeships, McDonald was the name. We drop Wedowee and her courts for a few weeks in order to introduce to you the men who filled the various county offices from her earliest days down to the present.

Judge of the County or Orphans Court, Archibald Sawyer, an old bachelor who lived at Sawyers ferry, Oakfuskee, was elected judge by the General Assembly December 18th, 1832, qualified and entered on duty about January 1st, 1833. He was a man of rough frontier or pioneer habits, had a good common business education, honest and upright in his dealings and stood favorable with his people. He was one of the first settlers and had been a soldier in the Indian wars. He was afterwards a Colonel in the State Militia and took pride in battalion muster. He was generous to a fault, and made donations to the Masonic Lodge which bears his name today. His grave can be seen at the Masonic cemetery and was the first interred in honor of its donator. His brother Joe, a bachelor also, lived several years and to his death, afterwards with J. W. Guinn, and died at Homer, Angelina county, Texas. Being only a boy when the judge died, we know but little of his many good deeds and traits of character

and will try to get some one more and better acquainted and qualified to furnish us with a fuller publication.

His last official connection with the county judgeship ended December 31st, 1839.

RADOLPH'S COUNTY OFFICERS

From 1833 to 1892

Number Nine

JUDGE OF COUNTY OR ORPHANTS COURT

Archibald Sawyer, January 1st, 1833, Andrew Burnham succeeded him January 1, 1840.

John D. Bowen, January 1, 1843.

Jefferson Falkner, January 1, 1844.

John Reaves, August 18, 1845.

James W. Gunin, January 1, 1846, and held until May 23, 1850.

By an act of the legislature this court was abolished and Courts of Probate were substituted.

JUDGES OF PROBATE COURT

Joseph Benton, elected May 23, 1850.

Joseph Curry, May 20, 1856.

T. L. Pittman, May 13, 1862.

R. S. Heflin, August 5, 1865.

W. W. Dodson, February 20, 1868.

D. L. Davis, November 7, 1874.

S. E. A. Reaves, August 20, 1880.

T. J. Thomason, August 26, 1886.

A. J. Weathers, November 4, 1892.

COUNTY COURT CLERKS

William Vardeman, January 1st, 1833. (He was removed by the County Court April 14, 1834).
W. H. Cunningham, April 14, 1834.
Jefferson Falkner, October 26, 1835.
W. H. Cunningham, deputy, January 20, 1839.
W. M. Buchanan, January 14, 1839.
C. W. Slatham, October 2, 1843; he held until May 23, 1850, when the office was abolished.

CIRCUIT COURT CLERKS

Johnathan Camp, elected August and qualified October 8, 1833, to succeed himself.
W. H. Cunningham, October 31, 1834.
W. . Wood, December 6, 1848.
John L. C. Donner, January 23, 1849.
R. T. Smith, February 22, 1852.
John Reaves, September 6, 1853.
H. H. Wise, August 12, 1864.
W. E. Connelly, August 27, 1865.
H. H. Wise, November 13, 1865.
J. H. Davis, Jr., March 14, 1867.
R. H. Bolt, February 12, 1868.
John T. Owens, December 11, 1876.
O. H. Perryman, August 13, 1880.
J. W. Stewart, August 20, 1886.
B. J. Ford, August 12, 1892.

SHERIFFS

Wm. Hightower, October 8, 1833.
Willis Wood, October 11, 1836.
Sylvanus Walker, October 26, 1839.
Robert Caskey, was elected on 1st Monday in August, 1842, but by some hokus-pokus he did not qualify until later.
Samuel Carpenter, October, 1842.
R. Coskey, March 18, 1844. He was allowed ex-officio from October, 1842, for his full term.

W. P. Mewell, September 14, 1845.
Almond P. Hunter, September 7, 1848.
Joel T. Morrison, February 22, 1850.
Wilson Falkner, April 28, 1853.
J. M. Hearn, September 23, 1853.
A. W. Denman, August 14, 1854.
Wilson Falkner, August 10, 1856.
John V. McKee, August 14, 1860.
Larkin Breed, August 11, 1863.
Linsey McKee, August 3, 1865.
S. E. Jordan, June 22, 1867.
Jenkins Bennett, November 15, 1871.
Robert Merrill, November 7, 1874.
J. B. Amos, December 20, 1874.
W. C. S. Robertson, August 15, 1877.
M. V. Mullins, August 14, 1880.
Wilson L. Ayers, August 25, 1884.
R. H. Ford, August 16, 1888.
Robert Willoughby, August 9, 1892.

Number Ten

TAX ASSESSORS

The taxes were assessed and collected by the same person who were appointed by the commissioner's court until 1841.

Richard Jones, May, 1834.
Wm. Hightower, Sheriff, June, 1835.
Willis Wood, Sheriff, May, 1837.
Sylvanus Walker, Sheriff, May, 1838.
A. P. Hunter, 1839.
Hugh Harris, elected, August, 1841.
George C. Powell, assistant, 1842.

The law was changed and assessor appointed in battalion districts in 1843:

John Hanna, district 1; Hugh Montgomery, 2; Thos. Gilland, 3; R. W. Caskey, 5; James F. White, 6; Samuel Carpenter, 7; James M. Pittman, 8; Samuel T. Owens, 9; James M. Hornsby, 10; James Duke, 11;

1844

Micajah Goodwin, W. G. Falkner, J. H. Allen, Andrew Burnham. The law was changed and office made elective in 1845.

Elijah Humphries elected April, 1845. The law was changed in 1848 and district assessor appointed.

W. F. Caldwell, July, 1848.

Harrison Crow, January, 1848.

W. A. Striplin, July, 1848.

Harrison Crow, January, 1849.

R. L. Robertson, January, 1849.

Joseph Savage, January, 1849.

W. F. Caldwell, February, 1849.

Law changed again.

W. H. Spruce, April, 1850.

E. M. Burgess, February, 1851.

D. A. Perryman, August, 1853.

W. T. Wood, August, 1854.

J. C. Burson, August, 1855.

Wm. Ingram, August, 1857.

W. A. C. Busbee, August, 1863.

R. L. Robertson, November, 1865.

W. H. Cofield, November, 1871.

C. W. Eichelberger, November, 1874.

John Y. Irvin, August, 1877.

Rufus Forester, August, 1884.

J. H. Radney, assistant commissioner of taxes, 1884.

M. P. Pittman, elected August, 1888. M. P. Stewart, elected August, 1892.

TAX COLLECTORS

Richard Jones, May 1834.

Wm. Hightower, sheriff, June, 1835.

Willis Wood, sheriff, May, 1837.

Sylvanus Walker, sheriff, May, 1838.

Hugh Harris, elected 1841.

George C. Powell, vice, Hugh Harris resigned in 1842.

W. B. Campbell, 1843.

Elijah Humphries, March, 1844.

Wm. Johns, March, 1852.

Peter Powell, August, 1855.
W. W. Weathers, August, 1857.
W. A. J. Swann, August, 1863.
Warren Armstrong, March, 1865.
John Coston, January, 1867.
W. Wood, August, 1868.
C. B. Nichols, November, 1871.
J. . Davis, February, 1873.
T. J. East, November, 1874.
J. H. Radney, August, 1877.
A. J. Cheeves, March, 1891.
W. A. Radney, August, 1891.
J. M. Kitchens, August, 1892.

Number Eleven

COUNTY TREASURERS

W. H. Cunningham, appointed 1834.
W. G. Faulkner, December, 1835.
J. W. Stallings, August, 1838.
Joseph Benton, August, 1841.
Isaac Baker, May, 1850.
C. W. Statbane, February, 1853.
W. J. Taylor, August, 1854.
B. J. Hand, August, 1857.
Henry Walls, August, 1863.
B. J. Hand, appointed November, 1863.
H. H. Huckeba, August, 1865.
F. F. Adrian, November, 1865.
Wm. Colwell, February, 1868.
F. Ricke, November, 1874.
S. E. A. Reaves, August, 1877.
John T. Owens, August, 1880.
M. V. Mullins, August, 1884.
J. M. Bell, August, 1888.
J. H. Barsh, August, 1892.

COUNTY SURVEYORS

Hedgman Triplett, 1834-8.

Martin H. Wordsworth, 1839-45.
John McPherson, 1840-48.
James McPherson, 1844.
Joseph Curry, January 1849-54.
F. M. McMurray, December 1849-57.
R. D. Kennedy, January 1852-54.
N. N. Ligon, August 1856.
C. M. Amos, August 1857-69.
John D. Barron, August 1858.
John M. Hendricks, August 1859-60.
W. H. Cofield, August 1862.
W. M. Perryman, August 1863.
W. W. Wilson, February 1868.
Joseph Swint, November 1874-89-92.
O. H. Perryman, February 1878.
W. W. Kidd, February 1881.
W. H. Cofield, December 1883.
James Walker, August 1892.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF EDUCATION

W. H. Spruce, June 1856.
W. E. Connelly, May 1860.
W. H. Spruce, May, 1862.
W. A. Striplin, November 1865.
J. W. Addington, November 1867.
C. C. Enloe, November 1868.
J. M. K. Guinn, March 1871.
C. C. Pittman, October 1879.
W. D. Lovvorn, August 1888.
G. O. Hill, August 1892.

REGISTERS IN CHANCERY

Bryon L. Nicks, May 1844.
W. H. Cunningham, February 1845.
John Reaves, January 1849.
W. H. Smith, August, 1851.
R. L. McGonigal, September 1855.

F. M. Perryman, December 1858.
Joe Day Barron, August, 1859.
A. S. Reaves, February 1861.
John Reaves, April 1866.
J. W. Oliver, October 1887.
R. A. Parker, January 1892.
J. W. Stewart, 1893.

COMMISSIONERS

- 1834—George McKaskle, Willis Wood and James Hanson.
1835—William Clemens, James Prothro, James Hathorn and Thomas Blake.
1836—Thomas Blake, William McKnight, Hugh W. Harris and William Mullaly.
1837—Thomas Blake, James Hathorn, William Clemens and James Prothro. James Hathorn and Thomas Blake resigned. Isaac Baker and Hugh Montgomery appointed.
1838—Richard Young, Andrew T. Ray, B. H. Bazemore and J. T. Wafer, W. G. Falkner, vice Wafer resigned.
1840—Richard Young, Ephraim Carpenter, W. G. Falkner and B. H. Bazemore.
1842—B. A. Flinn, W. J. Pritchett, David E. Grisham, Sygmore Moore and John Murphy; vice W. J. Pritchett resigned.
1844—John Murphy, E. Ingram, Thomas F. Lundie, and D. E. Grisham.
1846—John Murphy, E. Ingram, T. F. Lundie and James W. Clemmens; vice D. E. Grisham resigned.
1847—John Murphy, William Owens, J. M. Clemens, Gideon Riddle and Samuel Carpenter; vice John Murphy died.
1848—James M. Clemens, Gideon Riddle, William Owens and Freeman Taylor.
1850—E. S. Barber, T. L. Thomason, T. L. Lundie and David V. Crider.
1853—John M. Hendricks, B. J. Hand, W. H. Miller and Harris Stephens.
1854—W. H. Miller, B. J. Hand, William Camp and Wm. Ingram.
1855—Hiram Barron, Charles Foster, Wilson Falkner, and J. F. White.
1857—Hiram Barron, J. F. White, Jeremiah Stephens, and P. G. Trent.
1858—J. F. White, P. G. Trent, J. Stephens and John F. McKey.

- 1862—J. F. White, W. H. Grogan, Samuel Y. Carlie and J. Day Barron.
- 1864—D. D. Mitchell, Z. M. Hutchens, J. H. Bell and R. S. M. Hunter.
- 1866—J. H. Bell, W. C. Robertson, John W. Noles and John D. Windsor.
- 1868—J. M. Kitchens, J. B. Cooly, A. Bowen and Samuel McDonald.
- 1872—W. H. Culpepper, W. H. Osborne, W. D. Lovvorn, T. N. Brown, D. A. Perryman, vice W. D. Lovvorn resigned, C. A. Prescott appointed; vice T. N. Brown resigned.
- 1875—W. P. Jackson, W. S. Mayfield, J. N. Lovvorn, and Enoch Carter.
- 1877—J. C. Wright, I. T. Weathers, R. A. Arnett, and Charles Davis.
- 1880—T. T. Holly, J. N. Lipham, W. W. Stitt and J. M. Gay.
- 1884—J. M. Gay, A. J. Green, W. D. Taylor and H. D. Landers.
- 1888—H. M. Mickle, J. H. Leftwich, W. G. Preston, and W. M. Moon.
- 1892—W. J. Barrett, G. W. French, W. J. Cofield and W. R. Sherman.

STATE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

From 1837 to 1894

Number Twelve

SENATE

Chambers and Randolph

George Reese, 1840-4.

Jefferson Falkner, 1845-6.

Tallapoosa and Randolph

Seborn Gray, 1847 to 1850.

John T. Heflin, 1851-2.

Randolph

Henry M. Gay, 1853 to 1856.

R. S. Heflin, 1857 to 1862.

W. T. Wood, 1863-4.

Middleton R. Bell, 1865-6.

Cleburne and Randolph
H. H. Wise, 1867 to 1871.

Chambers and Randolph
J. J. Robinson, 1872 to 1879.
R. S. Pate, 1880-3.
N. D. Denson, 1884-7.

Birmingham
W. A. Handley, 1888 to 1891.

Chambers and Randolph
H. M. Williamson, 1892-5.

REPRESENTATIVES

Thomas Blake, 1837.
Wm. McKnight, 1838.
F. F. Adrian, 1839.
Wyatt Heflin, 1840-1.
Jerry Murphy, 1842.
Wyatt Heflin, 1843.
James Allen, 1844.
Wyatt Heflin and Samuel T. Owens, 1845-6.
Wm. Wood and C. J. Ussery, 1847-8.
C. D. Hudson and R. S. Heflin, 1849-50.
John Reaves and R. C. Pool, 1851-2.
John Goodwin and W. P. Newell, 1853-4.
W. H. Smith and R. J. Wood, 1855-6.
W. H. Smith and A. W. Denman and Isaac Weaver,
1857-8.
F. M. Ferrell, F. A. McMurray and Joshua Hightower,
1859-60.
C. J. Ussery, A. W. Denman and James Aiken, 1861-2.
Henry W. Armstrong, M. D. Barron and A. A. West,
1863. Capt. West did not take his seat. Milton D.
Barron died during this term and D. A. Perryman was
elected to fill the vacancy; he, too refused to take his
seat.
J. L. Williams, W. W. Dodson and W. E. Connelly,
1865-6.
W. E. Connelly and J. L. Williams, 1867-8.

Jack Wood, 1869-70.
 J. H. Davis, 1870-1.
 W. D. Lovvorn, 1872-3.
 W. D. Heaton, 1874-5.
 C. J. Ussery, 1876-7.
 J. J. Hearn, 1878-9.
 T. E. Head, 1880-1.
 F. P. Randall, 1882-3.
 C. B. Taylor, 1884-5.
 E. Carter, 1886-7.
 Samuel Henderson, 1888-9.
 W. L. Ayers, 1890-1.
 H. H. Whitten, 1892-3.
 S. E. A. Reaves, 1894-5.

ORDINANCE SECESSION

1861—H. M. Gay, Senate; R. J. Wood and George For-
 ester, House.
 1865—R. T. Smith, Constitutional Convention.
 1867—J. H. Davis, Constitutional Conveineion
 1875—B. F. Weathers, Constitutional Convention.

CORONER

The office of Coroner with few exceptions, was filled by appointment for special purposes, but few made bond.

John T. Morrison, 1833.
 David E. Grisham, 1841.
 S. Carpenter, Jerry Murphy and W. Falkner, 1843.
 J. T. Morrison, 1847-50.
 Green B. Mullins, 1850.
 J. M. Hearn, 1853.
 Z. Darden, 1854.
 Wm. Owens, 1857.
 W. A. J. Swann, 1860.
 John Parker, 1863.
 J. Bennett and Wiley Mize, 1871.
 R. F. Hand, 1889.
 Jordan Smith, 1892.

Number Thirteen

In a former letter you were given a short sketch of Judge Archibald Sawyer's characteristics. And now it will be in order to tell you about the others.

JUDGE ANDREW BURNHAM

Being a very small boy I remember but little about his political or official acts. I remember him as small in stature, crippled in one leg and a practicing physician. He lived on Bear creek, having moved there shortly after his retirement from office. He was very pronounced in his opinions and stood with the people. I remember he once visited my father's to examine what was thought to be poison found in the horse trough mixed with parched meal, and which Dr. Burnham after analyzing pronounced poison. That was about May, 1845, and the second day after James Peeler's dwelling was burned, two fine horses poisoned and a long string of fence set on fire and burned. Father had been employed as counsel for Peeler and had won the suit, and was the only motive that suggested a cause for the burning and poisoning. I recollect Dr. B. was pronounced in that opinion. Sometime after this he was sent for but on account of his leg he was unable to make the trip, and grew worse. Finally it was thought advisable to amputate the leg, and mother assisted in the operation and did the stitching. He never recovered the operation, but gradually lingered until death. J. W. Bradshaw made his coffin; and his remains were tenderly laid in the present City cemetery; and in sleep, awaits the resurrection morning.

JUDGE JOHN D. BOWEN

Judge Bowen was examined and licensed to practice law by Circuit Judges Shorter and Martin in 1842. He was medium in height, spare made and had a red face. He was father-in-law to A. J. Hamilton, commonly called Jack Hamilton, who after moving to Texas attained the reputation of being one of the finest legal lights in that State, and was appointed provisional Governor during the Reconstruction days.

JUDGE JEFFERSON FALKNER

Judge Falkner was a lawyer by profession, a Baptist preacher by practice and office-holder by occupation. He represented Randolph and Chambers in the State Senate, was Clerk of the County court for years; and if I remember correctly, represented Elmore in the Constitutional Convention in 1875. Notwithstanding his limited education he made rapid strides to efficiency at the bar and in the pulpit, and stood in the front ranks with his competitors. He was Captain of a cavalry company in the Confederate army, and finding his health failing rapidly he resigned, and on his return home organized a company of Home Guards, and then a battalion, to which he was respectively elected Captain and Colonel. He moved to LaFayette and thence to Montgomery, Elmore and now lives in Montgomery.

There used to be a good joke told on the judge. It went about this way: There had been a disputed question raised by the summer waggery as to which was the laziest, Jefferson Falkner, Steve Reaves or Hugh Montgomery. They were all legal legs of law. Although the question had been debated and points scored for and against each the question had not been fully determined. One evening in July there sat 8 or 10 summer loafers in the shade of the mulberry trees in front of Walker's Hotel on the northeast corner of the square, and one of the party noticed a dark cloud gathering over the courthouse when he remarked: "Boys, do you see that cloud overhead?" "Well that cloud will, if I am not disappointed, decide the dispute as to who is the laziest of that trio asleep on the bench". The three were laying on a work bench in the evening's shade of the courthouse, flat on their backs fast asleep. They all gave heed and consented to the test. In a few minutes big drops of rain began to fall, whereupon Judge Falkner got up and went in the courthouse, Steve Reaves turned over on his stomach, but Hugh Montgomery lay and took it all, and was given the verdict.

Number Fourteen

JUDGE JOHN REAVES

Judge Reaves was a lawyer by profession. He was elected as a Democrat to represent Randolph County in the General Assembly 1851-2; was Clerk of the Circuit Court or Master in

Chancery almost continuously from 1852 to his death. He was a member of Wedowee Baptist Church and Clerk of the same from 1847 to his death in 1887. He was one of those Christians who never seemed to doubt the word of God, nor forget in his public and private acts and dealings with men to be a gentleman and Christian. He was faithful, just and liberal, conservative and reliable; while he was slow to anger, he was quick to resent a wrong, and when a principle was involved he was immovable. Having been raised in a new county, like Nimrod of old, "was a mighty hunter". Many a day has the writer spent with him in the sport of hunting and fishing. He moved from Chambers county to Randolph some time about 1843,4, if we remember correctly; and no man ever lived in the county who held and maintained a public trust with more fidelity and integrity than Judge John Reaves.

JUDGE JAMES W. GUINN

Judge Guinn was born June 11th, 1804, in Green county, Tenn. He was the son of John and Rachel Guinn. He studied law and was admitted to practice at the bar in 1828 at Franklin, Macon county, N. C. He married Miss Catherine A. Dodson, in 1829. Was elected Solicitor in 1832. He moved to Fish Head Valley, near Chulafinnee, in Randolph county, Alabama, November 19th, 1841, and to Wedowee in the fall of 1843. Elected Judge January 1st, 1846. Moved to Cherokee county, Texas, December 11th, 1858, and to Angelina county, January 29th, 1859. Elected State Senator from Angelina and Nachadochees counties in 1866. He was a member of M. E. Church, loved and respected by all. He was a Douglas Democrat, opposed secession; had five sons in the Confederate army, all lived to return, but one lost an arm, another was captured twice and imprisoned once; the eldest two of whom have since died. While in the Senate at Austin, the State capital of Texas, he was taken sick and died in a few days thereafter, on the 27th day of August, 1866.

JUDGE JOSEPH BENTON

Judge Benton was a lawyer, moral and conventionally temperate, honest, upright and fair in his dealings, and for many years before his demise a true, faithful and consistent Christian

and member of Wedowee Baptist Church. He was one of the oldest or first pioneers in the county and to settle Wedowee—a bachelor, and hunted and traded with the Indians. He was County Treasurer for many years, and elected in 1874 County Solicitor. He was a Whig, and was elected the first Probate Judge, May, 1850. The official records during his official term are, perhaps, the neatest, fullest and most reliable of any to be found on file in that office. He was a Bell man and voted against secession. He built the dwelling the writer now lives in on lot 75 when the town was first settled and lived there until his death, August, 1876. The Circuit Court being in session at the time was adjourned in honor of his memory.

JUDGE JOSEPH CURRY

Judge Curry was a farmer, County Surveyor and a bachelor. He was temperate and moral, but did not belong to any Christian denomination. He was a Democrat, stood well and made a good official. He married shortly after his term expired and lived near the north boundary county line four or five miles southeast from Oakfuskee, where he died.

JUDGE T. L. PITTMAN

Judge Pittman was a politician and had served as Clerk in the Probate office with Judge Curry. He was a Democrat and secessionist, extreme and partisan, although capable, prompt, neat and efficient in the discharge of business. It was during war times, and he had many trying difficulties to meet, and necessarily made many enemies, personal and political. The strife engendered during the war forced him to vacate his office and seek a place elsewhere for protection. He moved to Cedar-town, Ga., where he lived until a few years since. He joined the Baptist Church, and it is said lived a Christian life for many years before his death.

JUDGE R. S. HEFLIN

Judge Heflin, an Indian soldier, lawyer, politician, Representative, State Senator and ex-Congressman, the most noted and popular man, at one time, the county has ever had. A Douglas Democrat, opposed to secession, and later on a Republican in the strictest sense. He was wild and rattling in his younger days,

but like Judge Benton and Pittman, reformed and joined the Baptist Church and is now living near Louina in dotage and retirement, where we trust, he will find peace, comforts and companionships to make his latter days his happiest on earth.

JUDGE W. W. DODSON

Judge Dodson was a farmer; represented this county in the Lower House of the General Assembly in 1865-6, and was Justice of the Peace in Wedowee Beat for many years. He was a Douglas Democrat, opposed to secession and after the war a Republican. He was a pious, orderly and devoted Christian and belonged to the M. E. Church. He moved from Macon county, N. C. in 1842, to the place where he has since lived, 3½ miles South of Wedowee until his death in 1894.

JUDGE D. L. DAVIS

Judge Davis was known and called "Lem" Davis, was a young man when elected in 1874, full of life, energy, acumen, and a Democrat. He was a man of fine sense and good business qualifications such as are necessary in the make up of a good official. He was kind, sympathetic and generous. Though like most men he had faults, yet you couldn't help but like Lem. Peace to his many noble deeds, to his big hearted and kind acts. Although his body is dead and his remains lie in another State. Lem still lives in the memory of this people.

JUDGE S. E. A. REAVES

Judge Reaves, known and called in boyhood days "Gus", Reaves, is a farmer and mechanic. He was elected County Treasurer in 1877 by the largest majority ever given in the county. He is our present representative. Honest, frank, open and manly in private or public life and dealings, an ex-Confederate Captain, a good and brave soldier, honored and loved by his men. He is a member of the M. E. Church, South, and is known and loved for many Christian virtues and charitable deeds. He was elected Representative in 1894 by the Populist, and is eligible for future honors.

JUDGE T. J. THOMASON

Judge Thomason was a merchant, a member of the Rock Mills Baptist Church, temperate and moral. He was a Democrat, but not a bitter partisan. We know but little of his official capabilities. He owns and runs a good farm in northeast corner of the county and has recently moved his family to Auburn, Ala. He is young and may live to fill some other official position. He is a good, clever man and neighbor and we believe stands very well with his party.

JUDGE A. J. WEATHERS

Judge Weathers is a farmer and has made it a success. Moral and temperate, honest, reliable, and everybody likes "Jack". He is a man of good horse sense and fine judgement, but doesn't seem to have any taste for official life and business. He is a Populist and Allianceman, and of course honorable, honest and clever.

Number Fifteen

SHERIFFS

WILLIAM HIGHTOWER

Sheriff Hightower, tradition says, was a bachelor when he came to the county. He was here when the county was first organized and had been for some time previously. He was elected in August, 1833 to the Sheriffs office. He was rough, wild and mischievous, played tricks on the credulous. Uncle Bill was perhaps as good material as the county had at that time for sheriff. Tradition further says, he was the original owner of the present site of Wedowee. When we first got acquainted with him he was married and lived on the old McIntosh road about two miles west of Gold Ridge, and with the exception of two or three he lived in Wedowee in 1857-8, his home was at the old home place until his death in 1889, or about that time. He was forty-three or four years of age when he came to the county, and in 1880 he was 92; this made him near 100 when he died. When he lived here in Wedowee in 1857, and kept hotel, we got well acquainted with Aunt Liza, his wife. They had no children. They lived where Sheriff Willoughby now lives. Ira

Culbreath had the house built and Uncle John Spence hewed the sills and logs.

Uncle Bill was a terror to evil doers. He had the first Court House built, it was a log cabin, on lot 108 near R. T. West's present store house. He had a jail too, but the hand of man did not fashion it, except the door. This jail may have been as long in construction as Noah's Ark, being an old and very hollow poplar tree, and from the best information known by the writer was on lot number 116, near the foot of the hill east of the present jail and on the bank of Frog Level branch.

While Sheriff, Uncle Bill, had to carry a prisoner to another county he and one guard in a two horse wagon, went into camp on their trip and after supper, the guard wanted to know which one would guard the prisoner in the forepart of the night. Uncle Bill said: "I'll fix that when bed time comes". The time came after a while and Uncle Bill took the wagon bed off, turned it bottom side up, put the prisoner under it, his and the guards bed on top—the prisoner was on hand next morning.

Uncle Bill was a good yarn teller. "One time, I was going to Wetumpka," he said, "and as I passed along there was a man clearing up a new ground. It was a pine orchard and the newly made log heaps were general. I said to the man: Hello, there, what are you going to do with these pine logs?" "Well, stranger", the man said, "I thought I'd have to burn them to get 'em out of the way". "Well", said Uncle Bill, "what are you going to do with the ashes"? "Nothing", replied the man. "Tut, tut", said Uncle Bill, "pine ashes up in my county are worth a dollar per bushel, and if you will save them, I'll give you 50 cent per bushel and take all you have. I'll be back in a few days and will pay you for them. What do you say"? "Well, I guess," said the man, "I'll have you 500 bushels ready at that price." "All right," said Uncle Bill and drove on. The ash burner soon had one hundred logheaps fired, but not all burned when Uncle Bill got back. "I recon", said Uncle Bill, "a cyclone had passed through the log heaps, for not a handful of pine ashes were to be seen". The wind, of course, blew them away as fast as burned as Uncle Bill knew it would.

We have told you this, Uncle Bill Hightower yarn, in order for you to get the manner of the man.

WILLIS WOOD

Sheriff Wood was one of the first county Commissioners, elected August, 1833. His family was probably one of the first to settle in the county. Daniel Phillips entered 80 acres near the old Broughton church and homestead in 1831, but we don't know when he moved his family there. Willis Wood's family was the first we have any information of that settled in South Randolph. It is said, and we are inclined to believe it, Mrs. Fletcher Haynes nee Wood, was the first native born white child in the county. She is 63 years of age. She was the daughter of Willis and Elizabeth Wood. She is not only the first native white, but the oldest citizen inhabitant living in the county. Sheriff Wood lived near the Pate old place when he died. W. R. McGill had a pair of hand cuffs sold at the administrators sale; we suppose they were bought while Mr. Wood was sheriff. Sheriff Wood raised a large and respectable family.

Number Sixteen

SHERIFFS

SYLVANUS WALKER

Sylvanus Walker was elected sheriff in 1839, and was one of the first settlers. We know but little about him personally.

ROBERT CASKEY

Robert Caskey was elected sheriff in 1842, but by some means, probably a contest, he did not act until March 1844. Big Sam Carpenter, sometimes called "Pointer" Sam was appointed previously as coroner and acted as sheriff until sheriff-elect Caskey qualified. Sheriff Caskey was an early settler and built several houses. The dwelling now occupied by Judge Weathers is his old homestead and he was living there when sheriff. He seems to have had opposition but from what cause it does not appear. He went west about the time Joe Henry, A. Q. Nix, Jack Hamilton, Walker, Judge Bowen, J. H. Allen and others did.

W. P. NEWELL

W. P. Newell was elected sheriff in 1845. He was a farmer and a nice, clever, sober and honorable man and made an excellent and efficient sheriff. He lived 9 or 10 miles north of Wedo-

wee and there is a post office named Newell near his old settlement. He died many years ago, and one of his daughters married ex-sheriff, John V. McKee, and her daughter and his grand-daughter married our present sheriff, Robert Willoughby.

ALMAN P. HUNTER

Alman P. Hunter, was elected sheriff in 1848. He made a good and efficient officer; he was Tax Assessor previously and deputy sheriff subsequently. He was one of those men that made opportunities and obstacles get out of his way if moveable when a friend was involved. He was the father of Bob, Virgil and Bill Hunter. He moved to Beat 8 and died there after the war. Was prudent, cautious, kind and fearless and retained the confidence, love and respect of his friends until his demise.

JOEL T. MORRISON

Joel T. Morrison was the second son of Rev. Wm. Morrison, a Primitive Baptist preacher, and one among the first white families to settle in the northern portion of this county. Joel was a Whig, we believe, and was a deputy sheriff and coroner before elected sheriff in 1850. Joel was a live, big hearted, open handed and all round good fellow. He had but one fault; that is he was very fond of "tea" and sometimes it got the better of him. He was removed in April, 1852. Wilson Falkner, coroner, acted a short time, when he was restored. Joel was very popular with the masses and his home people stuck closer than a brother to him. He was subsequently Justice of the Peace and township trustee until his physical powers gave way. He died in July, 1884, being in his 74th year.

J. M. HEARN

J. M. Hearn, called "Mouse" Hearn, was elected in August 1853. He had been coroner and deputy sheriff previously. His father, Asa Hearn, was doubtless the first white man, and family to settle in Wedowee. "Mouse" went to Texas, and died in the war.

A. W. DENHAM

A. W. Dedham was elected sheriff in 1854, as a Democrat. He was a farmer and lived near Arbacoochee. Made an excellent

sheriff. He made up a company and was elected its captain and went into the Confederate army, Tennessee division. Is now a citizen of Cleburne county, honored, loved and respected for his many Christian acts and charitable deeds. Is a Baptist and his light shines brightly. As an officer, soldier, neighbor and Christian he stands well.

JOHN V. McKEE

John V. McKee was elected in 1860, as a Democrat. Was raised as a farmer. He built the present business house on north east corner public square now occupied by Guinn Bros., publishers of **The Toiler**. Was active, energetic and aggressive, honest, honorable and capable, and made a most excellent sheriff. Married ex-sheriff W. P. Newell's daughter. Organized a company and went out at its head as captain. Died during the war.

LARKIN BREED

Larkin Breed was elected in 1863 as an anti-war or Union man. Was a farmer, good, easy, clever kind of a man, who was highly respected by his neighbors, but didn't have backbone, manhood and self-reliance and confidence like his predecessor McKee. This weakness got him mixed up badly and generally, and the poor fellow was in the middle of a bad fix. His former friends became his bitterest enemies and his enemies his friends. The fact is, he wanted to stay at home and keep out of the war, and with all the political power and machinery in the hands of the war party, he had to cater to that power or go instant. Party, honor and profits were not the consideration not the inducements to hold office—it was to keep out of the army and out of the range of Yankee lead. A man had to have an office and hurrah for Jeff Davis or dig a hole or cross the dead line. Sheriff Breed preferred the former, and wisely too.

LINDSEY McKEE

Lindsey McKee was elected in 1865, as a Union-man. A brother of John V. McKee, and lived in Beat 4. He was clever, liberal and a better neighbor did not live in that section of country. Everybody liked Lindsey personally, but being oppressed, stigmatized and persecuted for his political opinions, he be-

came rather partisan and when the surrender came, the other fellows who had had a Dives time woke up in trouble. They didn't ask for mercy, but sought other climes with peaceful surroundings, and Lindsey decided to do so too, and shortly after the war moved to Minnesota, where he still lives.

S. E. JORDAN

S. E. Jordan, a Georgian who had been here a few years, was elected sheriff as a Republican. He meant well, but liked the most essential prerequisite necessarily found in man to make a successful sheriff. He would have made a better commissioner or tax collector. A successful farmer with taste and judgment and the best of neighbors. Died, some time in 187-, near his home 12 miles north of Wedowee.

JENKINS BENNETT

Jenkins Bennett was elected in 1871 as a Republican, J. B. Amos contested his election, but the contest was not tried during his term. He was a citizen of Wedowee and a wood workman. He now lives within a mile or two of Wedowee and is in his 65th year; has the promise, from appearance of a long lease on life. Made a good and efficient officer. Takes no interest in politics now.

ROBERT MERRILL

Robert Merrill was elected sheriff as a Democrat in 1874, but after qualifying held only about a month and a half. Bob had every prerequisite nature could give to make an efficient officer, but it did not suit a miller; grinding corn for toll was more congenial to him than serving papers and arresting persons. He lives in Carroll county, Ga. having lived to see a large family grown, married and settled to themselves.

J. B. AMOS

J. B. Amos, vice Robert Merrill, resigned, filled the unexpired term. Amos was appointed because it was claimed he was elected in 1871, and that he contested for the office and kept out by a partisan judge. He made a very good officer at first but

the latter part of the term, he got mixed and went off on the "Polly Ann", administration and was badly beaten in 1877. Jim was a big hearted fellow and as clever as he could be. He moved to Cleburne county about 1878, and was accidentally killed while hauling logs to a saw mill.

W. C. S. ROBERTSON

W. C. S. Robertson was elected sheriff in 1877 on an independent peoples ticket, anti "Polly Ann". He was a Union man and served in the U. S. Army; voted the Democratic ticket for Seymour for president. Is 49 years of age, lives in one mile of Wedowee, appointed and held the post office under Harrison's administration, made a good and efficient officer. Now a miller, and is eligible to the Populist promotion, in 1896. A member of the Alhance and M. E. Church, South.

M. V. MULLINS

M. V. Mullins was elected sheriff in 1880 as a Democrat. Was a Confederate soldier, 57 years of age, Baptist, open frank and approachable. Made a good and efficient officer. Honest and clever; said to be a partisan in politics. He was also County Treasurer and is now Beat Register of voters. Stands well in his church and party, with his people and neighbors, and is a citizen of Wedowee.

WILSON AYERS

Wilson Ayers was elected in 1884 sheriff as a Democrat, and in 1890 elected Representative as an Allianceman. Has also been elected Justice of the Peace. Wilson is clever, fair and open, a Baptist and a good farmer, 62 years of age and stands well with his neighbors. He made a good, safe and credible sheriff. He lives in Beat 2.

R. H. FORD

R. H. Ford was elected sheriff in 1888 as a Democrat. A member of the Alliance and the M. E. Church, South. He is 39 years of age, young, active, progressive and aggressive, made an excellent officer. Is a Pop and eligible for future political honors. Lives in Wedowee and has a farm.

ROBERT WILIOUGHBY

Robert Willoughby was elected sheriff in 1892 as a Pop, was a Confederate soldier, a good farmer and makes a splendid sheriff. He married ex-sheriff John V. McKee's daughter, is a Baptist, 50 years of age and lives in Wedowee.

Number Seventeen

CLERKS OF COUNTY COURTS

William Vardeman was the first County Clerk. He was appointed about January 1st, 1833, and removed April 1834. He may have been a very clever man, but the records are not very creditable as to his efficiency as an officer. Was succeeded by W. H. Cunningham in 1834, and Cunningham by Jefferson Falkner in 1835.

W. M. Buchanan succeeded Falkner in 1839. The records during his term are creditable and legible.

Charles W. Statham was elected in 1843. Was a Democrat and a bachelor. Married a Miss Martha Kelly, of Calhoun county, in 1844-5. He and his wife, J. W. Guinn and the writer spent the spring and summer of 1845 at Chamber's Springs in Talladega county. He held the Clerk's office until May 1850. The legislature abolished the county clerk and the court of Orphantage by substituting Probate Judge. He ran as an independent, J. W. Guinn as a Democrat, and Joseph Benton as a Whig. He came down on the day of the election in favor of Benton which elected, and of course was Benton's clerk during his six years. Was appointed County Treasurer by the Commissioners court in 1853, and held about one year. Made a good officer. He was honest and sober. His wife was the Rev. Christer Kelly's daughter; everybody knew father Kelly. Statham and family moved to Angelina county, Texas, near Homer, the county seat, in 1859, and was elected county Clerk of Aneglina county a few years afterwards. He must be in his eightieth year. Mr. and Mrs. Statham live in Lulkin, Texas, feeble and infirm; cared and provided for by their children.

CIRCUIT CLERKS

Johathan Camp was elected August, 1833, as the first Circuit Clerk. He was an early settler, and lived west of the Big Tallapoosa river, in Fishhead Valley. There are no records in the office to show any of his official acts. He held only about one year.

W. H. Cunningham succeeded Camp in 1834, and held the position until 1848. The records during his occupancy have been mostly destroyed. He bid off the first town, lot sold in Wedowee—lot number 13—and built a double log dwelling on it. He afterwards built a hotel on lot 133, subsequently rebuilt by William Owens, and now occupied by L. C. Huckeba. Was a small man and very sensitive. Moved away in 1849. He was a deputy County Clerk of Jefferson Falkner, also County Treasurer a short while. Had a wife when we knew him; stood very well generally, but judging from the records was only ordinarily efficient.

W. H. Wood, or "Brister" Wood, as he was generally called, was Clerk from December 6th, 1848, to January 23rd, 1849. He was the son of William Wood, and a brother to Dick, Alfred, Jack and Winston, Mrs. Martha Smith, Mrs. Sarah Knight and Mrs. Mary Pate. "Brister" was a fine business man and merchandised for years before war. He married Miss Josephine L. P. Guinn May 4th, 1851. Moved to Angelina County Texas, in January 1860. Mrs. Wood died May 15th, 1863, and was buried at Homer cemetery. After the war "Brister" came back and remained until his death in 1879 or 1880.

John L. C. Danner was appointed and held until 1852. He was a lawyer, well educated, had a firm mind and a business tact. He was of Dutch decent and married Miss Mary Ann Kitchens, sister of our present Tax Collector, J. M. Kitchens. He was a Democrat and through Congressman Dowdle got an appointment in the U. S. Treasury Department at Washington, and when the Jeff Davis government was set up at Montgomery, he resigned and took a position in it, and went with it to Richmond. Some time during the latter part of the war, if we remember correctly, he went north and afterwards returned to Montgomery, and was State Senator, and Supreme Court reporter. He died in 1872.

Robert T. Smith was elected in 1852 and held until 1853. He was a man of fine business quality and a Democrat, with a Douglas prefix. He named his eldest son Stephen A. Douglas. A Union man during the war and after was a Republican. Bob was in politics like every other thing he undertook—at head or in front. He was called a partisan, but not a tyrant. While he was quick to resent a wrong, he was easily approached and prompt to forgive. Bob never wrongfully oppressed an enemy, nor would he let others do so if he could prevent it. We have known him to rescue an enemy from his friends and protect him from harm. Was wild and rattling when a boy and full of sport. Married Miss Martha Wood, and after the war was elected State Auditor. He was appointed U. S. Custom House officer at the port of Mobile. Moved to Texas and lived for several years. Sometime in '80 he moved back to Wedowee and merchandised until his death in 1890. He was the son of Jeptha V. Smith, and brother of ex-Governor Smith, now of Birmingham. He was 61 years of age when he died. Mrs. Smith and family are citizens of Wedowee. John Reaves succeeded him and held until 1864.

H. H. Wise, an old bachelor, who lived near Arbacoochee, was elected in 1864 as a Union man. He appointed a one-arm ex-Confederate as deputy clerk to keep the Confederate tiger and secession leopard quiet. Kept his mouth shut and tongue still, but never lost sight of his friends nor betrayed their confidence. Elected State Senator from Cleburne and Randolph in 1867 to 1871. He was accidentally killed at Heflin in 1893 by being thrown from his buggy. Hicks made a good and efficient officer. He was one of those free, openhearted, liberal handed men without a personal enemy; but unfortunately became dissipated and reckless and lost control over his appetite and the temptations of intemperance.

Number Eighteen

Circuit Clerks

J. H. Davis, Jr., was Circuit Clerk in 1867 and held office about one year. A young man of fine promise, and a Republican. He was Tax Collector in 1873. Married Miss Josie White, an amiable and lovely young lady, and daughter of Dr. W. E. White,

of Roanoke. Lives four miles north east of Roanoke, and recently lost his wife, of whom he was devotedly attached, loved and cherished, and will ever remember in sadness and grief. Todd is about 50 years old, and for several years past has taken but little, if any, interest in public affairs, preferring home association with wife and children.

R. H. Bolt was elected in 1868 as a Republican; in 1874 as a Democrat. Made a most excellent and capable officer. Married Miss Texie Tomlinson, a beautiful and lovely girl. Studied law and grew in popularity until evil communications led him to intemperance. He resigned his office and went to farming; and for several years had a hard struggle trying to cut loose from a habit that had grown to be a second nature; finally by the help of God in whom he trusted, Jesus on whom he believed, the shackles which had fettered his legs, the cords that had bound his hands, the thirst that had parched his lips and the red wine that coveted his eyes were cast out cut loose and he became a child of God, an heir of heaven and a witness of righteousness unto salvation; and now is a devoted and zealous Baptist moved to Mississippi a few years since; is now in his 54th year. He was a member of Company K, 13th Alabama Regiment, made a good soldier; lost his left arm, and was honorably discharged from the Confederate service.

John T. Owens was appointed vice, R. H. Bolt, resigned in 1876. He was elected County Treasurer in 1880 as a "Go between" Democracy and Republicanism. Married Miss Alice Prescott, a charming blue eyed beauty, one of our most successful and prosperous merchants. He is in his 44th year; an organized Grover Cleveland Democrat; being prominently spoken of as their candidate for probate judge in 1898.

O. H. Perryman was elected in 1880. Made a good officer, was county Surveyor. He is a lawyer and editor and published the Wedowee Observer in 1889-90. Has a fine mind, quick perception and wields a trenchant pen, bold, aggressive and sarcastic. He is still young—forty-one—and in the prime of life, and lives one and a half miles south west from Wedowee where he is now running a saw mill. He is a Republican.

J. W. Stewart was elected in 1886 as a Democrat. Made a good officer and is now Register in Chancery. A quiet, peace-

able, orderly, christian gentleman. Owns and runs the Farmers Hotel; a member of the M. E. Church, South; 53 years of age and stands well with the people.

B. J. Ford was elected as a Populist in 1892. Is a member of the M. E. Church, South; sober, honest, and virtuous. An efficient officer, a steadfast friend and a zealous allianceman. He is 47 now, was a boy soldier in the late war and is the son of Capt. B. H. Ford, one of Randolph's most respected citizens, has a wife but no children.

Number Nineteen

Tax Assessors

The taxes were assessed and collected by the sheriffs or persons appointed by the Commissioner's Court.

Richard Jones, who lived on the present Robert Birdson home place, was appointed May 3, 1834. He was the first assessor and collector of taxes for Randolph county. There is no record to show who were taxpayers nor the amount collected. It must have been small, as all the other county officers were; and we find one man sometimes holding two and three different offices. Sheriff William Hightower succeeded him in June 1835; Sheriff Willis Wood May 1837. In serial letter number fifteen, we inadvertently located sheriff Willis Wood as living and dying on Corn House creek. It was Fletcher Haynes, who married Sheriff Wood's daughter, that lived and died on Corn House creek. Sheriff Willis Wood lived and died on the LaFayette road south of J. M. Mickle's old home place, and was buried at the Willis Wood cemetery, which is about a half mile south of J. M. Mickle's.

Sylvanus Walker, sheriff, succeeded Wood May 1838, Sheriff Almond P. Hunter in 1839 and 1841. Hugh Harris was elected in August, and in 1842 he was elected collector and the commissioners appointed George C. Powell assessor. Harris resigned and Powell was appointed, assessed and collected the taxes for 1842.

In 1843 assessors were appointed by battalion and regimental districts. John Hannah, 1.—Everybody knew Hannah, and tra-

dition says: Hannah was so elated over the honors conferred he filled up on corn juice and went home to celebrate. A big dinner was prepared and his neighbors invited, but Hannah was too sick to eat, and when he failed to appear the question was asked, "What ails Hannah"?

Hugh Montgomery, 2.—Hugh was a lawyer and it was said, "He was the best common law lawyer practicing at Wedowee's bar". He was a good easy kind of fellow, had no ambition nor pride and was too indolent to succeed in anything, though a man of fine mind and good opportunities.

Thomas Gilland, 3.—He was a good and safe man—a farmer.

R. W. Caskey, 5.—We remember but little about him.

James F. White, 6.—Was a democrat, a farmer and afterwards county commissioner. He lived in the northeast corner of the county.

Samuel Carpenter, 7.—We don't know which one of the Sams; we had big or painter Sam and little or tanner Sam, but we are inclined to believe it was big Sam, as he was handy and ready for anything in that line.

James M. Pittman, 8.—He was a democrat and farmer; he lived and died in High Shoals Beat; was one of our best citizens and raised a large and interesting family. He was the father of C. C. Pittman, County Superintendent of Education. His brother, Alfonso, is still living, I. L., Probate Judge and brother, is dead. He was 31 years of age when appointed tax assessor. He was a partisan politically, but a cleverer man could scarcely be found.

Samuel T. Owens, 9.—Was a democrat; was elected in 1845 with Wyatt Heflin to the legislature.

J. M. Hornsby, 10.

James Duke, 11.

In 1844 McCajah Goodwin, W. G. Falkner, J. H. Allen and Dr. Andrew Burnham were appointed.

Elijah Humphries was elected April 1895, was 39 years of age, farmer, democrat, and lived near Newell postoffice. He stood well and was popular with the people.

In 1847 the law was changed, and Harrison Crow, nicknamed "Jude", was elected. He was about 43, full of life, energy and sport, generous, free and open, intemperate, vulgar and profane, dealer in liquors, an incessant smoker and occasionally shuffled card, ring leader in sham fights and catamounts' devastation of Todd's negroes and calves, which we will tell our readers about in the future.

Number Twenty

Tax Assessors

W. F. Caldwell, a resident of Fish Head valley, was about 25 years of age then, and had the confidence and endorsement of his people. He was the father of John R. Caldwell, Deputy U. S. Collector, who now resides at Anniston.

W. A. Striplin lived in Fish Head valley when appointed, and was the son of Rev. Ben Striplin, Uncle Ben, as he was usually called, was an indispensable necessity at camp meetings. Father lived at Chulafinnee in 1842, and I remember as if it were yesterday. Mother took me with her to camp meeting; the stand had been burned down and a new one raised on the same spot, but by some oversight the charcoal and ashes had not been properly cleaned off before services began. It was on Friday when mother and I got there. We took dinner at Dr. John Wesley Hudson's tent, and at the afternoon services we were in attendance. Services had, however, been going on for a day or two previously and were seemingly cold and discouraging; notwithstanding the warm zeal and earnest pleas of the preacher it would have passed for a Quaker meeting. The ministers and tenters could be seen gathered in groups earnestly engaged in conversation. There were all kinds of surmizing as to the cause and as many theories for resuscitation. Methodist zeal and activity. Mother was one of those persons who believed that "Where there is a will there is generally a way", and as she used to say; "I never cross a bridge until I get to it". I heard her laughingly say to Dr. Hudson: "Just put Uncle Ben Striplin up this evening and you will see your troubles removed and Methodists go to work". Uncle Ben was put up, took his text and in a few minutes warmed up, and with a voice that echoed from hill to hill, said: "What, a thousand souls going to hell for the

want of a little straw, brethren"? Suffice it to say, that evening before sun-down, which was Friday, wagons with great loads of straw rolled in, and that night the altar was filled with shouting Methodists and converts, and such clapping of hands, shouting, singing, praying hallelujah, with tears, twinkling down the cheeks of Uncle Ben as he stood in the pulpit looking down in the altar, the writer hopes never to forget.

R. L. Robertson was a mechanic and physician when we first knew him; he was afterwards an M. E. minister of the gospel. He was then in his 45th year, heavily built, square shouldered, active as a cat and fearless as a lion. He married Miss Susan A. Dodson in 1844, and had born to them Harriett, Mrs. Dr. E. Camp, who died a few years since at Gadsden; John D. who lives now at the old homestead one and a half miles of Wedowee; Alice, the wife of Joe Cosper, both of whom are dead; and James F. who lives in Nebraska. Dr. Robertson was a man of fine mind and a successful physician. He made a capable and efficient officer. He was a "Know-nothing" in 1855-6, a strong Union man during the war, and a Republican in 1868, when he was again elected Tax Assessor and held for two or three terms. He was in his 75th year when he died October 1880, and was buried in the Masonic cemetery.

Joseph Savage, of Beat 3, Rockdale, was appointed in 1848-9. He was a school teacher, 44 years of age, was honest, sober and moral and well qualified for his duties. He had three sons, Jeff, Shelt and Jesse, in Co. K, 13th Ala. Regiment. Jesse was undoubtedly the best drilled soldier in Gen Colquitt's brigade. General Colquitt, when he took command of his brigade at Yorktown, Va., sent an order to the Captains in each regiment in his brigade to send him the best drilled soldier in their companies. The writer was in command of Co. K, 13th Ala. Regiment, and sent Jesse Savage. Those sent were placed in line and a trial inspection made. On the first all but four were dismissed; on the second two more, and on the third trial Jesse stood alone, and received the honor of being the best drilled soldier in the brigade. General Colquitt had him detailed as a sentinel in front of his headquarters. Jesse did not like the idea of being away from his two brothers and neighbor boys, and asked the General to let him go back to his company, which was granted. This characteristic of Jesse was strongly developed in his brothers, which was inherited from their father.

Number Twenty-one

Tax Assessors

W. H. Spruce was 46 years of age when elected in 1850. He was a democrat, teacher, farmer, a member of the M. E. Church. He has a good common school education, made a good officer, and was elected superintendent of education in 1855 or '56, and took a great interest in building and establishing schools and encouraging teachers. He stood well in his church and community. He raised a large and interesting family, but was unfortunate with his sons who are all dead and without posterity. After he lost his favorite son, Johnnie in the Confederate services, and the oldest, "Spark", had died, he said to the writer in tears of sadness and words of languish, "I had lived to hope and cherish the one desire of my heart until now to perpetuate and hand down to future ages, time and generation the name of all others to one most dear—Spruce." "But", said he in tones of despondency and desolation, "when I die, and that time you see can't be far off, (he was then suffering with a cancer) and the name Spruce dies, I am the only living male left, and with me it goes, and I shall be forgotten, so also the name of Spruce. I am not dreading death, I feel I am prepared to die and stand in judgement. But how can I reconcile the justice, mercy and love of God in this of all other afflictions to me most tormenting and anguishing"? He died a short time afterwards, December 1879, in his 57th year, after suffering with cancer of the mouth—loved and honored and mourned by all.

Number Twenty-two

Tax Assessors

Elias M. Burgess was elected in 1851. He was 39 years of age then, a democrat, schoolteacher, farmer and justice of the peace, living near Lamar when war was declared. He made up a company of about forty (the writer being one of the number) on July 4th, 1861, at Lamar. There was a big dinner given that day and Miss Cynthia Tomlinson made a nice little speech. E. B. Smith, of Brookville, was present with about forty volunteers on his list; and the two, Burgess and Smith, agreed to unite into one company. They agreed to elect the officers alternately by ballot. Smith was elected captain; E. M. Burgess 2nd junior

lieutenant, and on July 12th, 1861, this company left Brockville for Montgomery, where it was mustered into service July 28th. Lieutenant Burgess took a great deal of pride in drill and other duties, and at the Seven Pines battle distinguished himself for bravery, courage and leadership. While the regiment was supporting those engaged, Lieutenant Colonel H. R. Dawson ordered a retreat and was leading the way. Lieutenant Burgess saw Col. Dawson's blunder and snatched the regiment colors and rallied all but Dawson back on the breast works. Col. Dawson resigned in short order, and nothing but a junior rank of a second lieutenancy kept lieut. Burgess from regimental promotion. On the morning of June 27, 1862, and the second day of the Seven days fight just as the dawn of twilight, cast off the shades of darkness, a brisk breeze kissed the silken folds of the 13th Alabama regimental colors and she spread her wings in majesty and grandeur in recognition of the will and wishes of the strong arm and brave heart of Col. Sergeant J. W. Stallings, who held her aloft, which chanced to challenge the eye of the Federal sentinel, who in turn sent greetings and salutations on the wings of conister and grope with malice and in tent of forethought of her destruction and capture. But there stood four breast works made of flesh and blood to keep her afloat and defend her liberty; they were the bravest of the brave, Capt. John T. Smith; Lieut. E. M. Burgess; Sergeant J. L. Savage, Co. "K", and Private J. W. Brown, Co. "D". There Capt. Clark, Co. "A", Lieut Burgess, Co. "K" and Private Thad Pool, Co. "I" crossed the Jordan of life. The writer heard Lieut. Burgess's last farewell to man, saw the spirit of life leaving him before returning to the God who gave it; and as have had promised, saw his body laid to rest within a few feet of where its spirit had left it. He was killed in the road and buried just out and opposite on the bank. God took him as he had expressed a desire to the writer and others he wanted him to do. One Sunday morning in Capt. E. B. Smith's leg tent—it was in April, 1862, just before the seige at Yorktown, where we were then in camp—thirteen in number besides Mrs. Lieut. Guinn. The following named persons we remember as a part of those present. Capt. E. B. Smith, Lieut. J. M. K. Guinn, Lieut. A. T. Reaves, Lieut. E. M. Burgess, Corporal Shet Savage, Rev. Lewis J. Black, Private J. J. Meachum and Thompson Reaves—8 in number, the other five we have forgotten—were passing the time talking about our chances in getting home alive, when the subject came up as to where we had rather be

wounded. Thompson Reaves, as well as we remember, started the subject by saying, "I had rather be wounded by having my index finger on my right hand shot off". Then said he, "I could get a discharge and stay at home. John J. Meachum said: "Thomps, I'll take my big toe and that would give me a furlough, and I'll stay if I once get there", (meaning home). Shelt Savage said: "I believe I'd take my left side". Capt. Smith said: "Shelt I am like you, I want both hands and feet and I'd take my right side". Lieut. Reaves said: "Boys, I'll take my foot; Polly is good company and I had rather be with her than anywhere else." Lieut. Guinn said: "I'll take my left arm between the wrist and elbow, I could come and go when I pleased." Lieut. Burgess said, (suiting the occasion by placing his finger in the center of his forehead): "I want to be hit right here and where killed be buried". Rev. J. Black said: "I don't care where I am hit; I only pray God, if I am to be wounded seriously to cause my death, I may be killed so dead that not a muscle of my face, arm, leg or body will move I pray God that this may be made so as a token and evidence that you all, my wife, father, mother, brother, the members of my church and everybody else, may know that I am a christian and that I will meet them in heaven". The scriptures say; "The last shall be first," Lewis Black was the first; while laying behind the breastworks, at the battle of Seven Pines he was struck by a ball in the head. Old soldiers know when a ball hits them, it sounds like a marble hitting a board; this was the case with the one hitting Lewis. Every eye near him was instantly turned toward him; for they all knew and most of them had heard him pray to God that it might be thus—we inquired diligently and critically for we had promised him too, to see if his prayer was answered, and they all testified that not a feature of his person moved that they saw. Lieut. Burgess being next to last selecting, was the next to first killed. On the morning of June 27, near a cowtrail coming obliquely into the road cutting the space of three or more feet wide through the bank three or four feet high to the level of the road bed, while standing cautioning the boys of the danger in passing it, as the yankees had one or two peices of artillery planted to cover it, which had killed Captain Clark and Thad Pool, he was struck with a minnie ball in the forehead just where he had selected and was buried as near the spot as was thought prudent. The last but two and the first but two, Lieut. J. M. K. Guinn was the next. A piece of shell struck his

left arm between the wrist and elbow just where he too, had selected that fatal Sunday morning. The next was Lieuts. Burgess, Guinn and Reaves were shot on the same day—June 27th—the second day of the Seven Day's battle. The next two were Thompson Reaves and John J. Meachum. Reaves had his finger shot off and Meachum his big toe—just as they had selected. The writer was at home on furlough when they came home, when Mrs. Guinn related the circumstances, calling the names of the entire thirteen and with special attention to the six at that time, wounded as desired and selected. In the spring following Capt. Smith and Sergeant Shelt Savage were wounded each in the side, as they had selected. The other five we have forgotten their names. If we knew where Thompson Reaves and Shelt Savage were, for they were alive when last heard from, we would write them; perhaps they would remember the others.

Number Twenty-Three

Tax Assessors

August 1853, David A. Perryman, then 27 years of age, and a mail contractor, was elected Tax Assessor. In politics he was ever loyal open and pronounced in his fidelity to the national nominee; but local and state elections he usually votes for the less of two evils. He opposed secession, had no ambition or disposition to shoot or be shot at by the "Yanks" and out-general Herod in keeping out of the war and staying at home, which he certainly did. He voted the Cooperation ticket in 1866, and for Horatio Seymore in 1868; was a Grant man in 1872, and since that time voted the Republican ticket. In state county and local elections he votes for the man generally. He is one of the most active, industrious, persevering and energetic man in the county; but at the same time, he has never been rightly or justly accused so far as we have heard, of manual hard labor. In fact, he said; "When a boy I was not able to labor until I was twenty-five; since then I have managed so as not to have to do it." In other words when a boy he was physically incapacitated to labor, and since a man morally indisposed to do so. He has managed to inform himself with the practical workings and requirements of the postal and pension laws and rulings and forms of these departments, from which he had made a good living and educated his children. "All I lack of

being a wise man," said he, "is learning it, for I never forget anything I ever learned." This is no doubt theoretically true, for he has a remarkable memory and a never failing fountain of wit, humor and tenor of sarcasm. He is the encyclopedia of Randolph county and her public men. Judge John T. Heflin who bore the sobriquet, "law-library", was another as equally as remarkable for memory. Esq. Perryman came to this county in 1843. He carried the mail for years, and was associated as principal or deputy census taker in 1860, '70, '80 and '90.

He has been Notary Public, Justice of the Peace, County Commissioner of Roads and Revenue, and was elected to the Legislature—vice Milton D. Barron, deceased—in 1863, but refused to take his seat because he feared to trust 200 pounds of Union loyalty to fill a Confederate loyalty seat. He used to be an active Mason. He is now a member of the Primitive (Hard-shell) Baptist, and quotes scripture like a theologian student. On one occasion he met Rev. Moses Park, a Christian divine, whose daily theme was the revelation of God's word. And as the reverend and learned divine began to reveal the mysteries and wonders of the treasures of the goodness, mercy and love of God, by quoting text after text to support his church creed, Esq. Perryman, as the opportunity and occasion demanded, dropped in a Primitive text. This at first stimulated Rev. Mose Park, and he became enthused over the love and mercies of God. Esq. P. quickly quoted one of his Primitive predestinations from before the foundation text. Rev. P. raised his head and looked him in the eye and asked: "Are you a preacher?" "No", answered Esq. P. "Are you not a member of a church"? "Yes", replied Esq. P. "but I am like the negro that had the small pox—it has never marked me."

Esq. Perryman is one of Randolph's best citizens; he is liberal, charitable and neighborly. He is now in his 60th year and is remarkably active and stout for a man of his age. He lives in Rockdale beat No. 3, where he has made his home for many years.

W. T. Wood was elected in 1854, and was at the time 24 years of age. He lived near Chulafinnee, was a Democrat, and made a creditable record. He raised a company was elected captain, and left for the war March 19th, 1862. He was elected to the State Senate in 1863 by the Union or anti-war contingent.

J. C. Burson, of Burson's beat, formerly Cherokee, but now High Shoals, was elected in 1855. He was one of the leading men in his beat and took a great deal of pride in the discharge of his official duties. He was Justice of the Peace for several years, and stood well with his party and people.

William Ingram, of Delta beat, was elected in 1857. He was a bachelor, 34 years of age and is now 72 and living in the same community, which is a portion of Clay county. He made a most excellent official, and the Democrat party, to which he belonged, reelected him until his political opponents became hysterical and chronic in the extreme. In 1863 when the hardships of the war and men were being conscripted and forced out, the sentiments of voters were indifferent as to officers, and turned to partisan and political aspirations and promotions. Mr. Ingram being a secessionist and a war man and that element having been in power and control, were charged with all the cruelties and hardships of the war and the sufferings of poor widows and orphans children. He was defeated by a good majority contrary to his or opponents expectations. He represented Clay county in the legislature a few years since as an Organize Democrat. He taught school in Wedowee in 1852 or '53. The writer remembers when his father came home one night and said: "Boys, school will open Monday week. We have employed Mr. Wm. Ingram; he is a good teacher, comes well recommended and can teach English grammar to the tenth rule in Smith's grammar"—Prepositions govern the objective case. You need not laugh that was something almost incredible in those days. We studied spelling and reading—Webster's blue back, Smiley's arithmetic and wrote with Goose quills. Prof. Ingram ruled out paper with his little finger nail and sharpened our pens with his penknife. He married Miss Ada DeFreese, an accomplished and refined lady. She was a sister of Mrs. John A. Moore, who lived at Roanoke for some time during the war.

W. A. C. Busbee lived in or near Louria when elected in 1863. He was a strong sympathizer with the Union cause. He was a clever good natured fellow. No one else, it seemed, cared to run against Ingram as they expected nothing but defeat. But somehow Mr. Busbee got it into his head he would be elected and he made the people believe it. He said to the writer: "Jim, it is not a hard matter to believe what we want to believe, besides

it is a necessity for me now." And before he got through telling us we believed it too. It was not the love of honors or money that made office seekers those days—it was to keep out of the war. The people generally owned homes and every body was known that needed help, and those who expected to run for office saw and cared for the needy.

R. L. Robertson was elected as a Union man in 1865. See serial number 18.

W. H. Cofield, a Republican, was elected in 1871. He was 55 then and lived until 1894. He has been County Surveyor and Justice of the Peace, and took the census of his beat 1880. He was an honorable man and good clever citizen. His education was limited and he wrote an illegible hand. He had a great deal of criticisms and opposition during his term as assessor.

C. W. Eichelberger was elected in 1874 as a Democrat. He lived in Bacon Level beat. He was well qualified but careless and negligent in the discharge of his official duties. He was in 1885 connected with the U. S. Revenue department. He is now living at Roanoke.

John Y. Irvin, of High Shoals was elected in 1877, on an Independent People's ticket. He was 39 then and is said to be living now at or near Columbus Ga. He was re-elected in 1880 but was shamfully legislated out. He made a good faithful and accommodative assessor, and no man stood higher than John with the honest common people.

Rufus Forrester was elected in 1884, but as J. H. Radney, Collector, had been appointed tax commissioner, Mr. Forrester never assessed the taxes.

M. P. Pittman was elected in 1888, as a democrat. He made one of the closest and most correct assessments of the tax that had been made in years. In fact, the records show that he took time and patience in preparation and listing the tax-payers. The proper assessment of taxes is the most important connected with the county and state finances and it is generally the most careless and imperfect officially performed.

Mr. Pittman was 43 years of age when elected. Over confidence in the faithful discharge of duty and unprecedented, undemocratic and outrageous acts of his party, bull-dozing and ballot fraud caused his defeat.

M. P. Stewart, a populist, was elected in 1892. He was 37 years of age then, a man that the people esteemed very highly for his many good and moral qualities. He lives in Louina beat. He has been somewhat unfortunate in selecting deputies who have made a creditable official, and is our present assessor. He is very popular and an uncompromising "POP".

Number Twenty-Four

Tax Collectors

As has been previously stated the Tax Assessor and Collectors' office were usually held by the same person until 1841.

HUGH HARRIS

Was the first to be elected as Collector. He lived northeast from Wedowee on little Tallapoosa river. He was one of the first pioneers, a good citizen and clever man. He was re-elected in 1842, but resigned after the Commissioners' court failed to appoint his Assessor.

GEORGE C. POWELL

Having been appointed Assessor previously by the Commissioners was appointed Collector vice Hugh Harris resigned. He lived in what is now known as Roanoke beat. We know but little about him or his official acts.

W. B. CAMPBELL

Called Bug Bill Campbell, made his home at Wedowee. He was elected in 1843. If we remember correctly he was son-in-law of Judge John D. Bowen. In 1844 Collector Campbell went west, and it is said about \$1400 of the taxes collected went with him.

ELIJAH HUMPHRIES

Was elected in 1844, re-elected and held until 1852. He was a democrat, honest, sober and clever. He lived on west side of Big Tallapoosa river and probably in Delta beat.

WILLIAM JOHNS

Was elected in 1852. He was a citizen of Arbacoochee beat, was a cripple and went on crutches. He was open, free, liberal, clever and very popular. He made a good and efficient officer, but unfortunately, he would occasionally drink a little too much. He was elected to succeed himself until 1855. While on his round collecting, in Louina we believe, after closing his day's work, filled up and started for his next day's appointment. Taxes were generally paid in silver and carried in saddle-bags. Uncle Bill had made a good collection, and on his way lost his bag of silver, and did not miss it until he stopped to spend the night with a friend. Fortunately, D. A. Perryman was only a short distance behind and found the saddle-bags and carried them to Uncle Bill. He swore off and repented in sack-cloth and ashes, yet, while the people had the utmost confidence in his honesty and integrity they made an example and set a precedent by which there could be no misunderstanding in the future.

PETER M. HOWLE

Of Arbacoochee beat, was elected as a democrat in 1855. He was 35 years of age then, and now lives on the old Armstrong home-place south of Arbacoochee. He was a safe, sober, and conservative man, and stands today as one of Cleburn's most honored and respected citizens.

W. W. WEATHERS

W. W. Weathers was elected in 1857 as a Democrat. He was at that time 56 years of age, He made a good and efficient Collector. After being re-elected his own successor two or three times it began to look as though he was there to stay; not only that, but his friends began to say: "You can trot out your best horse, but he won't be in the race at the home stretch." "Can't beat him." It became as aggravating as a sore toe in a dew-berry patch to those who wanted a bomb-proof during the war.

Just to think the Collector's and Assessor's office filled by two rampant secessionists too old to be conscripted, while two peaceable, home loving husbands could fill these places and stay at home were enough to make the situation of the latter desperate. When men become desperate something happens. An ex-Confederate Captain whose loyalty had been proven on the battlefield untarnished or questioned, though not a candidate, was placed at the head of the opposition—"Independent anti-war men's ticket"—it made them hopeful and assured election certain for their entire ticket. Randolph has always had enough patriotism and independence to cut off chronic party officeholders and when that gets too scarce or indifferent as on this occasion, in their desperation will bury selfishness, ambition and party pride and go it blind like they did in 1863.

W. A. J. SWANN

Of Louina, was elected in 1863. He was a young man of 28 summers, and had returned home with the loss of index and middle fingers of left hand, and its use for life. Capt. Swann volunteered and went out in Capt. Alford C. Wood's company, August 1st, 1861, which belonged to the 14th, Alabama regiment. He was 1st. lieutenant, and was promoted to Colonel of his regiment. He was a brave and gallant soldier and was loved and respected by his men. After being wounded he resigned and came home and being closely and sympathetically associated with the people with whom he had learned to love from boyhood and aided in bearing and sharing their joys or troubles, he found many of the, oppressed and persecuted by a partisan, political and tyrannical war administration in county and state. Naturally, his sympathetical words and generous acts went out to aid, cheer and encourage the troubled to patience to fortitude. They were men of thought, principle and unselfishness. They appreciated his brave words and sought to make him their friend and leader and at the same time protect and strengthen him. This is a lesson wise men have learned as successful leaders must have if they stand. A few of the leading men met together and after counselling decided to run him for Tax Collector. This would keep him at home and support him—two very important things, and indispensable to their new leader and their plans and thoughts of conquest. So far as the writer knows, they secured his consent; at least, his friends put his name on their "Inde-

pendent anti-war" ticket. He was, however, persuaded a few days prior to the election to write a letter saying; "I am no candidate. I have not sought the office". This was not a full surrender to the overture of the enemy. It might mislead the simple, but not those wise and determined men whose only hope for relief and success depended on the election of their ticket. A brave, gallant, maimed Confederate soldier's name at the head of their ticket meant success; otherwise, defeat. Heads of messes met and another letter after consultation was prepared and sent on the day of election to every beat, which in substance said: "Voters, don't be deceived, don't be mislead, Capt. Swann truly says: "I am no candidate. I have not sought the office", but his friends, the people, have said he was their choice, their candidate, and he has not said, "he would not serve." We promise you that Capt. Swann will accept. We know what we say. We do not want office-seekers nor chronic office holders. You have had enough of that kind of material, and to your sorrow. Let us show we are free men, and dare to vote as we please and not as the bosses say and order. Let those old able-bodied "war-horses" who have been stable and pompered and said, "Go boys," have a good recommendation at the ballot box and an opportunity without an excuse to "go and force peace" and send our boys home to their mothers. Good and true men have been sent to every beat with instructions to "vote her solid". The writer was at home during the election nursing an empty sleeve. He had always voted the Weathers' ticket because it was said he had made a good officer, but when a comrade in boyhood and in war equally as competent and certainly as meritorious and deserving was to be endorsed or repudiated by his vote, a second thought never entertained his mind for a moment. Capt. Swann, with the entire Independent ticket, was elected. He made a good collector. Capt Swann has voted the republican ticket since the war. He is a primitive baptist. He owns a good farm and runs a successful mercantile and supply business at Swann Hill, eight miles south of Wedowee. He is in his 60th year, and with the exception of a slight paralytic attack, is in remarkably good health and able to control and carry on his business.

Number Twenty-Five**Tax Collectors**

In last week's issue in lines 9 and 10 from first, in speaking of W. A. J. Swann "promoted to Colonel of his regiment," should have been "promoted to Captain of his company".

WARREN ARMSTRONG

Was elected March, 1865, as a "Union man"—that is what all anti-secession Southern men were called during and at the close of the war. He lived in Fishhead valley and was one of the most substantial and prominent men in the valley. He was a brother of Bill, Jim and Henry, the latter is living in Clay county now. He was a good, safe and reliable officer and clever man.

JOHN COSTON

Was a teacher. He moved from Bowdon, Ga., about the close of the war and taught school. He served one term, and a few years afterwards moved to Tennessee and was living when last heard from.

WILLIAM WOOD

The son of ex-sheriff Willis Wood, was elected in 1868 as a republican. He moved west a few years since. He was clever, accommodating and generally well thought of, but there was some trouble in making his last final settlement with the Commissioner's court. He was the republican "Polly Ann" candidate for probate judge in 1880.

As there are a great many readers of The Toiler and others in the county who don't know nor have heard what the "Polly Ann" was we take it for granted it would be interesting just here to tell them a little about her. Certain prominent anti-prohibition democrats and republicans had a boat built and launched on Little Tallapoosa river May 19th, 1877, we believe it was, for the purpose of fishing, etc. When launched, a bottle of "red eye" was broken on deck and she was christened "The Polly Ann", and then provisioned with ample and varied supplies

necessary for a cruise down the Little and Big Tallapoosa river to Louina. The trip consumed several days, and during the trip it was said, "wet tickets" were agreed upon for county officers for both parties and the tickets selected should be nominated and elected. Two men were selected from each of eight out of thirteen beats one of whom was to be nominated by the other as chairman of his beat, the other to be committeeman on organization of the county convention. Delegates were to vote by ballot through the chairmen of beat delegation. Each beat was to have ten delegates or votes in the convention; eighty-six and $\frac{2}{3}$ would make the nomination by a two-third vote. This assured their man eighty votes when the time arrived to make the nomination. One of the candidates, two weeks before the beat meetings were held said "I'll get 79 votes on the first ballot". He got 80, and as one delegate from Wedowee beat voted for him not expected, and on the second ballot he was declared nominated. "I'll get 79 votes on first ballot", caused suspicion and before the convention finished its nomination, the writer exposed the scheme and eighty delegates bolted the convention. Gilbert Hurst composed the poetry and Alf Monkus the music and it was named "Polly Ann".

C. B. NICHOLS

A republican, was elected in November, 1871, and did not collect all the tax for that year. This caused trouble in his and Wood's final settlement; otherwise, it is said, made a very creditable officer. Chris now lives in Clay, and is one of the most popular drummers that handles the "grip". He resigned and J. H. Davis was appointed February, 1873.

J. H. DAVIS

See former letter under heading of Circuit Clerks.

T. J. EAST

. Was elected in 1874 as a democrat. He was merchandising at Louina at the time. He was a member of Captain John T. Smith's company and lost one leg in the war. He made a brave and gallant soldier, belongs to one of the oldest and most respected families in the southern portion of the county. He owns

a good farm on Corn House creek. He is living in Roanoke, is a Notary Public and Tax Commissioner. He was nominated by the "Polly Ann" in 1877, and defeated for re-election.

J. H. RADNEY

Was elected on the Independent "Peoples Ticket" in 1877. He made a good Collector during his first term. He was re-elected in 1880 and afterwards appointed Tax Commissioner. He owns a good farm near Roanoke on which he lives. He is a man of good morals, sober habits, liberal and charitable, and member of the M. E. church, south. The act of the legislature making the commissioner appointive by the governor instead of electing by the people and his continued term of office, rendered him very unpopular and no doubt to unjust criticisms. The voters of Randolph county are very jealous of their rights, and as rule, with few exceptions, hold to the one term.

A. J. CHEAVERS

Of Saxon's Beat One, was elected as a democrat, in 1891. He was 57 years of age then, and from some cause resigned and W. A. Radney appointed in August 1891. He is a very clever man and said to be a good neighbor and citizen.

W. A. RADNEY

Of Roanoke beat, is a brother of J. H. Radney, the former Tax Commissioner with whom he had associated; and, we are told the appointment was a bitter pill which has not been swallowed by some yet. Personally, and as far as the writer knows he is a very nice, pleasant and sociable gentleman.

J. M. KITCHENS

Our present Collector is one of the oldest living citizens in the county. He lives in Rockdale beat, where he has lived since boyhood. He has been faithful, energetic, honest and impartial in the discharge of his duties and a better or cleaner record had never been made by a Collector in the county. He is a republican and voted that ticket since the war, and the populist ticket in the last county and State elections. He is now in his 65th year,

hale, hearty and robust. He was elected and served as county commissioner in 1868.

Number Twenty-Six

County Commissioners

George McKaskle—One of the two first County Commissioners of Randolph County. He lived in the northern part of the county on section 21, township 16, range 11, and represented all north Randolph while Willis Wood, the other, lived in the Mickle settlement, near the Chambers county line, and represented all south Randolph. There were only two voting places in the county. Their first court was held April 1834, at Triplett, the county seat, now Blake's Ferry, under a mulberry tree, near Triplett's dwelling house, a short distance from the ferry on the west side of the river. We have been unable to find any one who knew him or what became of him.

Willis Wood—We refer you to serial on sheriffs.

James Hanson—We find he was appointed by the court on two different occasions as a Commissioner, but there is no record evidence he ever qualified or acted.

1835—William Clemens, James Prothro, James Hathoan and Thos. Blake were elected.

William Clemens lived six miles south of here on the place now known as James S. Radney's. He owned a large body of land, several negroes and a big herd of stock cattle. He was said to be a good clever neighbor and an honorable man. We knew his sons, Prosser L., Jesse, James and Ben. He died in June 1840. Ben Clemens, it is said, now lives in Clay county; Prosser died before the war; James and Jesse moved to Louisiana. The old Clemens trail took its name from this family, and was used for driving beef cattle to Georgia.

James Prothro we believe first settled near Roanoke, then called High Pine, afterwards moved to Rock Mills, which was called Prothro and McPherson's mill. He was a good citizen and stood well with the people. He was re-elected in 1837. He died many years ago.

James Hathorn lived near Roanoke, just this side, and had good property. He was a brother of Hugh Hathorn. He resigned and moved west.

Thos. Blake lived fifteen miles north. He owned a large body of land, had several negroes and farmed. Uncle Tom was strictly honest and upright in his dealings. He was re-elected in 1836 and 7, but resigned after his election to the legislature in August 1837. He was Randolph's first member in the House of Representatives. He prided in the euphonous name, "Wool hat boys". He was a democrat, and we believe a Primitive Baptist in belief, though not a member. He was the grandfather of Stell Blake, Esq. He was born in 1800 and died in 1880. His remains lie in the family cemetery on the hill overlooking his old home. His late widow died Feb. 25th, 1895, and was 89 years of age. She was a noble pioneer mother; and was buried by her husband's side.

Number Twenty-Seven

County Commissioners—Continued

1836—Thomas Blake, re-elected; William McKnight, Hugh W. Harris and William Mullaly.

William McKnight, who had just attained his majority and right to vote, being an enthusiastic Democrat, of Big River Beat 5, (now Louina) was elected Commissioner, and in August, 1838, was elected to the Legislature. His boyish ambition and aspiration for office seems to have been fully gratified at the end of his legislative services from what cause does not appear; for the writer finds nothing derogatory in his official acts. I lost sight of him since 1850; can't say for certain, but believe he died in the county.

Hugh W. Harris lived in Henry M. Gay community when elected. He was a brother of Dr. Daniel C. Harris, who now lives near Delta. Hugh moved from the county in 1843 or '44.

William Mullaly was a native of Ireland, 36 years of age when elected. He bid off several town lots at the sale in March 1836, and I suppose made Wedowee his home, but subsequently

lived in Lower Fishhead, south of Chulafinnee, originally known as Sawyer's beat 2. He was well to-do, and stood favorably with the people from the time the writer knew him in 1842 to 1860, since which time he has journeyed over the Jordan of life.

1837—Hugh W. Harris and Thomas Blake succeeded themselves James Brothro and James Hothorn, who served in 1835, were again elected.

Thomas Blake was not only elected Commission at the August election in 1837, but was at the same election and on the same day elected to the lower house of the Legislature. This can be accounted for probably from the following circumstances; Randolph, Chambers, Talladega, and other counties admitted into the State in 1832, did not in all probability properly organize in time to have the census taken in April 1833, and were left out of the reapportionment of Senators and Representatives on the basis of the census. The Constitution of the State made provision for representatives and the basis of representation entitling counties to members of the senate and representatives. It also provided for one member from each county, but with provisions that at some future time it should contain a certain number of inhabitants. This provision seems to have been misconstrued or ignored by the General Assembly.

If I remember correctly, one of these counties—Chambers I believe it was—elected and sent a representative anyhow, but not until the winter session of 1836-7 did the subject come properly before the Legislature, when it was referred to a select committee to investigate and report on the constitutionality of county representation. From some cause, the committee failed to report and the Legislature adjourned without action. However, Governor Clay called a special session in June, 1837, in order to make provision for State troops, which had been called on to protect the settlers from the Indians, who were hostile and making preparations for war. At this special session, this committee reported each county entitled to one representative, etc.

Having no mail facilities, the people, depended largely on "grapevine" dispatches, which often traveled at the rate of 50 to 75 miles in a day, but were not always credited by the people. So you see the people had heard the news, and in order to be in

shape to receive its benefits, elected Thomas Blake, their first representative. And, like our Old Side Baptists usually put it: "In case of failure", a Commissioner. Uncle Tom was, I believe one of that faith and practice; and, you know they are the best people in the world, relying entirely on God's love and mercy, and not on educated tongues, pride, riches and vain ejaculations.

Blake and Hothorn resigned. Isaac Baker and Hugh Montgomery were appointed. (See serials on County Treasurer and Tax Assessor.)

1838.—Richard Young, Andrew T. Ray, Blount H. Bazemore and J. T. Wafer were elected.

Richard Young owned and lived at that time at Tripplett's (Blake's) Ferry. Tripplett sold out after the county seat was moved to Wedowee. Richard Young was a good clever man and citizen, and was a brother of Ike Young. The Legislature changed the term of office from an annual to a bi-annual. He was re-elected in 1840 and died in the latter part of 1844. Thomas Blake was appointed administrator and at the sale bought the homestead and ferry. His son John Blake, owned it until his death.

Andrew T. Ray was an early settler and entered land on section 36, township 17, range 10, in 1835. It was in Blake's beat, afterwards Dunston's No. 3. Mr. John R. Ray of Oxford, Ala. is his son. I don't remember to have seen him, unless he was the Ray who visited my father's in Chulafinnee in 1842.

Blount H. Bazemore was about 33 years of age. He lived in Wehadkee, beat 4, now High Shoals. He was re-elected in 1840. His name gave him a noted personality, and he was known all over the county for levity, sport and liberality.

J. T. Wafer was a son-in-law of William Clemens, and established Wafer's now Malone's ferry. He resigned and afterwards moved west. W. G. Falkner was appointed to fill the vacancy. (For Falkner see serial on County Treasury).

1840—Richard Young, B. H. Bazemore, W. G. Falkner, and Ephriam Carpenter.

Ephriam Carpenter was Dutch and came from Germany when a boy. He was a brother of Samuel Carpenter, whose family of children still live here—Bud, Sarah, Frank, Mally, Mary, Ida, Sug and Berta. Eph Carpenter married a Clemens, was a tanner by trade and lived in the house now occupied by Mr. John T. Owen. He moved to Louisiana thence to Texas. It is said, he is now living in Sherman, Texas, in feeble health. He had a beautiful little girl, with black curly hair, named Mattie. She claimed the writer as her sweetheart, and would sing:

“Old Dan Tucker he got drunk,
And fell in the fire and kicked up a chunk;
A red hot coal got in his shoe,
Lord a massa how the ashes flew.

Chorus.

Clear the track for Old Dan Tucker,
You come too late to get your supper.

Number Twenty-Eight

County Commissioners—Continued

A little explanation just here becomes necessary to a better understanding of the divisions of the county at this time:

In 1842 Randolph county was divided into two militia regiments, and those into beats, as follows: Seventy first Regiment: Beats—Able's, 1; Blake's, 2; Arbacoochee, 3; Casper's, 4; Lovvorn, 5; Duke, 6; Owen's, 7; Fish-head, 8; Ninety-first Regiment: Beats—Wesabulga, 1; Roanoke, 2; Bacon Level, 3; Wehadkee, 4; Big River, 5; Wedowee, 6; Flat Rock, 7; Rock Mills, 8.

1842.—Benj. A. Flinn, Wiley J. Pritchett, Davis E. Grisham and Sygmore Moore.

B. A. Flinn lived in Able's beat. He was a whig and made a dutiful, efficient officer, prompt in attendance, reasonable and just in his opinion and acts. He was a personal friend of father's and shared his confidence. I don't remember having seen him after his term of office expired.

Wiley J. Pritchett was 30 years of age, was a democrat. He lived in Wehadkee beat, and probably afterwards in Roanoke. He was tax assessor and justice of the Peace. He moved to what is now known as Clay county, and was living when last heard from.

Davis E. Grisham was 38 years of age, and a "Coon" Whig. He lived on the hill north of Wedowee and owned the Che-wastihadgo N 1-2, S 3, T 20, R 11 reserved under Creek Treaty of 1832. He sold out to J. W. Guinn in 1843 and moved to Roanoke beat near his old home, located in 1835 on Graves' creek, probably the Bob Birdsong place. He was elected in 1844. He made a good Commissioner and was highly respected. Eventually, he went west. Sygmon Moore was 48 years of age and lived in Lovvorn's beat. When I first got acquainted with him I thought he and Seymore, Bazemore, Latimore, McLemore, Elmore, Fillmore, Gilmore and Guy Moore, Israel Moore and Lypson Moore were all brothers. It happened, however, that Guy Moore got in court about a wild hog, and during the trial, I learned which was which.

Sygmore Moore if I remember correctly, was a Charles W. Statham man in the election for Probate Judge in May 1840. Since then I have lost sight of him.

1844.—Davis E. Grisham and Wiley J. Pritchett, were elected. Thomas F. Lundie and Edmond Ingram, John Murphy appointed vice W. J. Pritchett resigned.

John Murphy was a democrat. He lived in Wedowee beat on Wild Cat creek, at the late residence of Mrs. Mary Camp.

He was an honest faithful officer and re-elected in 1846, and held until his death in 1847. He was an uncle to Esqr. J. P. D. Murphy.

Thomas F. Lundie was a Whig and lived at or near the present Lineville, in Clay county. He was re-elected in 1846 and 1850. In 1853 he was the whig candidate for State Senate and was defeated by 34 votes by Henry M. Guy, democrat.

Edmond Ingram was a democrat. He lived in Fish Head beat, was 49 years of age, re-elected in 1846, and was living in

1860. (It seems to have been an unwritten law to divide the Commissioners with the two parties).

1846.—Davis E. Grisham, Thos. F. Lundie, John Murphy and Edmond Ingram.

James M. Clemens was appointed vice Grisham, resigned.

J. M. Clemens was 35 years of age, and a son of William Clemens. He lived at the James Radney place on Corn House creek. He was re-elected in 1848. He went west.

“Big” Sam Carpenter was appointed vice John Murphy deceased. He lived at Wedowee, and was one of those indispensable necessities to the prompt and efficient carrying on the public business. He was competent, capable and efficient, always on hand and ready for any emergency. While not an office seeker, yet he did a good business in filling loop holes and vacancies. “Big” Sam was a jack-at-all-trades, professions and callings. A man of good disposition and pleasant manners, and seldom got credit for what he was worth. He went west.

1848.—William Owens, James M. Clemens, Gideon Riddle and Freeman Taylor.

William Owens came to Wedowee from Benton county in July, 1842, as a mail contractor. He moved to the place, now occupied by Andrew, his son. He kept boarders and worked at the shoe maker trade. Subsequently, he built the Owens Hotel (Huckeba House).

He was Jailer for years and Coroner one or two terms. He was sober, honest and upright in his dealings and a good citizen. His two eldest sons Preston and Henry died in the Confederate service, Tom, Andrew and Bill and Mrs. Cordelia Griffin are living. Mrs. F. E. Owens, who survived her husband until May 19th, 1894, was a Crook. She had a remarkable memory and a bright intellect. Her biographical, chronological and historical information were faultless and inexhaustable. Up to within a few days of her demise, she related minutely incidents that had occurred when the writer was a small boy fifty years ago. She said some time previously to the writer: “I am ready, willing

and prepared to go when called, only one thing gives me a desire or care to live. You know what that is." The writer answered in the affirmative. Then she continued: "I have asked God for his care and protection when I have been called away, and am persuaded 'all's well'." Husband, wife and daughter, Yucatan, are sleeping at the City Cemetery.

Gideon Riddle was 47 years of age then, and now 94 and still living, but his hearing is so dull I had to talk through a trumpet to him in 1892 when I last met him. He owned and resided at Oakfuskee, the Sawyer old Ferry on Big Tallapoosa river. He raised a large, interesting family and his sons are all good citizens. He makes his home with them.

Freeman Taylor was a South Carolinian, 48 years of age. He lives at the Dick Green place, south of old High Pine Baptist church. He was a good, safe and well to do farmer, clever man and good neighbor. He died many years since.

Number Twenty-Nine

County Commissioners—Continued

1850.—E. S. Barker, T. L. Thomason, David V. Crider and Thomas F. Lundie.

E. S. Barber lived in Louina, he and W. A. Handley carried on a business of merchandise which became insolvent and Barber going out of business. Miss Cattie Barber, a lady of rare beauty and fine literary attainments was his daughter, and W. M. Barber, editor of the Randolph County News, in 1877, and one of the firm of Barber & Hill, merchants at Roanoke, was his son. He died sometime about 1855-6.

Thomas L. Thomason was a democrat. He lived at Roanoke, afterwards at Rock Mills. He was a big hearted, wholesoul and jolly comrade; sociable, pleasant and lively. He was popular with "the boys" and occasionally took a hand in horse racing, etc., etc. Aunt Nanay, his better half, was a grand old mother, and a faithful Christian, whose hope was disdained with suffering. They lived with their son Tom, ex-Probate, Judge T. J. Thomason, at Rock Mills, where they died. John W. Thomason

and Nan were their children. John W. Thomason was clever, honest, liberal, sociable, and a faithful member of the Baptist church, whom to know was to love. Judge T. J. Thomason, who now lives in the county needs no commendations by me. You know him. Mrs. G. W. Taylor, an amiable lady, a kind neighbor, a dutiful wife, and affectionate mother. Judge T. J. is the only one left. .

David G. Crider was 36 years of age; a blacksmith by trade, a democrat and an M. E. preacher. He lived at Arbacoochee. He was almost helpless for years before his death. Honored, loved and respected by all and died at Arbacoochee about 1883-4.

1853.—John M. Hendricks, B. J. Hand, W. H. Miller and Harris Stephens.

John M. Hendricks was 50 years of age, a democrat and lived in Bacon Level beat. He was a good, clever, safe and capable man, and very popular and gave strength to his party ticket. Was County Surveyor for several years and made a most excellent and efficient officer. He was noble, generous, kind and true; did the writer an act of kindness and friendship, he then, and now highly appreciates and hopes never to forget. He was living near Texas Court Grounds in Heard county Georgia, in 1868; and I believe died at the home of his son, Capt. John M. Hendricks near Rock Mills a few years afterwards. Peace to his memory.

Britian J. Hand, (See serial on County treasurers).

W. H. Miller was 56 years of age, lived in Flat Rock beat. A democrat and stood well with his party. He was living in 1860.

Harris Stephens was 47 years of age. Lived in Delta beat, was a democrat and popular. During the war it was said he was "a bitter partisan and persecutor of Union men." He had previously borne the name of a quiet, pleasant and peaceable neighbor and citizen. He was said to be physically the best man in the county. Men's surroundings and associations have a great deal to do with their acts. The war times forced every man to be a partisan, and to take sides. There was no neutral ground upon which to stand. Deception didn't deceive, but when attemp-

ted it brought two-fold persecution. Willing or unwilling you had to choose one or the other sides and abide the consequences. Your own kindred and neighbors became enemies. There were no ties, not that of wife and husband, this cruel war did not separate; nor virtue, it did not insult; nor love, it did not seduce; nor peace, it did not outrage. No saint, sinner, woman, boy or girl could speak above a whisper without fear of proscription. No; not even the poor negro escaped the eagle eyes of war and anti-war persecutions. The lame, halt, aged and Christian ministers had to cry out, like the rabble did that persecuted Christ, or go to prison, the woods or swing by the neck. Don't say; you didn't if you were at home, nor that you wouldn't. As good men and women as you dare to be did it. Harris Stephens may have and no doubt did go too far. I, even I, did and said things I would to God I had not; but no man can truly say I persecuted or inflicted suffering on any one wantonly.

Correction.

In last week's issue two names were incorrectly spelled;

"Berta" when it should have been "Barto" Carpenter;
"Mattie" should have been "Mallie" Carpenter.

Number Thirty

County Commissioners—Continued

1854.—B. J. Hand, W. H. Miller, W. E. Camp, and William Ingram.

W. E. Camp was probably related to Jonathan Camp of Delta beat, the first Circuit Clerk of Randolph county. He was 67 years of age, and a democrat. Probably the father or uncle of William E. Camp, who volunteered in Capt. James Aiken's Company from Arbacoochee beat, and elected Orderly Sergeant and afterwards promoted a Lieutenant. The Camps were all good citizens well to do farmers.

William Ingram. (See serial on Tax Assessor).

1855.—Hiram Barron, Charles Foster, Wilson Faulkner and James F. White.

Hiram Barron lived in the town of Louina, and was a Baptist minister and democrat. He was the father of Matthew M., John D., Milton D., and Joe Day Barron. As each of his sons were more or less public characters and associated in the historical and official acts and administration of the county's past, I'll speak of them in their regular order. He was re-elected in 1857. Was honored by the appellation "Father Barron", which in those days meant much. Old fashioned in his ways, positive in his affirmations, energetic and determined in his acts; and when he said a thing he meant it and believed it, and his neighbors respected and sustained him.

Charles Foster lived in Rock Milles beat. Elected as a democrat; a good electioneerer, popular, energetic and ambitious and made some reputation while Commissioner, but at the expense of his party, or rather the Courthouse contingent. This let his friends to suggest and solicit him to offer for the legislature and put the "boss machine" against him which seldom fails. When the convention met and the "Boss Cat" purred, the Foster mice hied to their holes. Thus repudated, his high sense of honor had been humiliated and the fidelity of his constituencies were questionable, of whom he had a right to expect endorsement. His friends at home were mad and their ambition aroused and his name was announced as "an independent" candidate for representative. The convention had nominated the present ex-Gov. W. H. Smith, ex-sheriff A. W. Denham, and Rev. Isaac Weaver; this was in 1857. Foster had not openly and fully declared himself a candidate, but the democrats published that he had—everywhere and on all occasions—and that he was holding back until he saw what his chances were; that if he resigned his Commissionership he might not get in again, and office he must have. They said he knew it would be his last and there was no possible chance for his election to the legislature. T. L. Pittman, a shrewd and coming politician, worked the racket and had men posted to be at every public gathering and the stump speakers, R. S. Heflin and W. H. Smith, to guy and rattle him. "It was considered," they said, "dishonorable and undemocratic to hold one office and run for another." They claimed too, "it showed weakness and want of confidence on his part." Uncle Charlie's pride was too sensitive to be pricked with this demagogical goad in the hands of merciless, selfish and tyrannical bosses. He resigned his commission a short time before the

election, and no sooner than done, they charged, "he had deserted and gone back on the party, and had sold out to the Know Nothings and Whigs." They guyed, rattled and shelled the woods and circulated the most rebellious and treasonable "saying" and "promises" he should have made. They cat a combed with crimes his political death and burial. Defeat was bad enough but their venomous and poisoned fangs touched his proud manly heart and stung it to death; for it never recovered. A noble, generous, honest and useful man sacrificed through selfish ambition and partisan strife. God pity the one, and pardon the others. Uncle Charlie was a member of Salem anti Missionary or Hardshell Baptist Church, and as far as the writer knew, lived a faithful Christian life until his death in 1894.

Wilson Falkner. (See serial on Sheriffs.)

James F. White, lived in Jenkins beat; was 42 years of age and a democrat. He succeeded himself in 1857-8 and re-elected in 1862. A clever man, but a bitter partisan. He was dubbed "the Courthouse Cat's Kitten" and lapped milk out of the same dish. Died during or about the close of the war.

1857.—Hiram Barron, James F. White, Jerimiah Stephens and P. G. Trent.

Jerimiah Stephens lived in Delta beat, 32 years of age, democrat and farmer. He was a good, honest and upright man, and commanded the confidence and respect of all classes. He was re-elected in 1858—was living in 1860.

P. G. Trent lived in Bacon Level beat. A democrat and a dealer in tobacco. Keen, shrewd and tricky, but pleasant, liberal and hospitable. Re-elected in 1858. Was a member of the Missionary Baptist Church, at Bacon Level. Moved to Tallapoosa County and was last heard from in Talladega County and still living.

1858.—J. F. White, Jerimiah Stephens, P. G. Trent and John F. McKay.

John F. McKay lived in Fox Creek beat; 44 years of age and a democrat. Plain common farmer, with plenty of good hard

horse sense, but knew little about public business. He was living in 1860.

1862.—J. F. White, W. H. Grogan, Samuel Y. Carlisle and Joe Day Barron.

W. H. Grogan lived in Delta beat; was 36 years of age, a secessionist "war man"—tolerable well informed and managed to get an exemption as a school teacher or miller and made himself useful in drawing salt, going to the post office reading soldiers letters, spotting and reporting conscripts and arresting deserters. All of these were considerative in exemptions. "The anti-war" or "Lincolmites" captured all the offices in 1864 and he had to have another consideration attached to his exemption. He raised a Company of Home Guards and joined Col. Jefferson Falkner Battalion, which was composed of Capt. John Reaves, Capt. B. H. Ford, Capt. O. W. Sheppard, Capt. Joshua Hightower and Capt. W. H. Grogan. He ran for Major but failed to get all of his own Company and none from any of the others and of course was defeated. He now lives in Cleburne county, I believe.

Samuel Y. Carlisle lived in Rock Mills beat; was 62 years of age, a democrat and of the best men in the county. Had the good will and confidence of his neighbors and the people generally, and retained them until his death.

Joe Day Barron, "Sandy Higgins", was raised in Louina, but at this time lived in Wedowee where he had been since 1857 as editor and publisher of the "Southern Mercury." He was a Breckenridge Democrat and Secessionist. He had formerly been associated with Matthew M. Barron and W. E. Gilbert on the "Louina Eagle." Was Register in Chancery in 1859, and in 1873 wrote the serial letters published in "The Randolph Enterprise," under the nom de plume of "Sandy Higgins" I believe he published a paper in Clay in 1880 and was a Clerk for Secretary of State from 1884, to 1890.

In 1890 he was elected Secretary of State, he was re-nominated in 1892 and defeated, but counted in and held until December 1894. Is now editor of the Montgomery "Daily Evening News" which advocates the gold bug or retrograde democracy. He is pleasant, affiable and sociable and a natural born humorist.

He was a minute man" and wore the badge in 1860. It is the only thing, the writer remembers, he never failed to hold fast and maintain, and this might be easily accounted for, since he was constitutionally opposed to being shot at; especially by Yankees. The writer didn't believe then, nor does he believe now, that he would or did stuff ballot boxes, but with bull dog tenacity, he catches, shuts his eyes and sticks. The writer loves him and supported him until honesty and decency forbid, and I believe, would do it again, if sanctified and fumigated of black belt ballot box stuffing etc.

Correction

Speaking of "Probate Judges election in May 1850, I said, "Sygmore Moore was a Charles W. Statham man. You have 1840," it ought to be 1850, as that was the first election in the state for Probate Judges. We had county judges previously.

Number Thirty-One

County Commissioners—Continued

1864.—Dan D. Mitchell, Zachary M. Hutchens, James H. Bell and Robert S. M. Hunter.

D. D. Mitchell lived on Big Tallapoosa river eight miles west and in Wedowee beat. He was a Union man; about 46 years of age; a Douglas Democrat; in 1860, but voted the co-operation ticket against secession. He was a well to do farmer; had never asked nor sought office until the Alabama legislature and Confederate Congress made it a "bombproof" against conscription. Office, those days, was sought after more earnestly than the kingdom of Heaven. It meant exemption from conscription and liberty to stay at home,—with wife and children, it was better than a substitute bought with gold, silver, negroes and lands; the profession of minister. Doctors and school teachers, the occupation of mail carriers, overseers, millers and smiths the infirmities of the deaf, dumb, blind, halt and maimed; or the diseases of the consumptive, paralytic and lunatic, because behind it was power and remuneration. Yet, not one of those classes escaped persecution. Many had to cross the "Bragg and Sherman line" or play the ground hog act.

So, you see, the anti-war, Union men and exempts were in the majority and elected their friends to office.

Zachary M. Hutchens made his home in Roanoke. He was 47 years of age. Ran on the Know Nothing ticket for representative with W. H. Burton, in 1855; and defeated Ex-Gov. W. H. Smith and R. J. Wood. Voted the co-operation ticket in 1860 and was a Union man when elected. Zack was a live energetic politician and a hard worker. But like most men who make political popularity a hobby, he mixed too freely with "Johnnie Barley Corn," a much more formidable and destructive enemy than Yankees. This was an unfortunate failing, otherwise he was loved and respected by all. He was in his latter days nursed with gentle hands and laid to rest by kind, sympathizing neighbors and mourning relatives in the Roanoke Baptist Church cemetery. His pleasant prominent and personal liberality endeared him to the entire community. M. J. Mickel, Esq., H. M. Mickle and David Manley are three of his friends who watched over and administered to his last wants. A few years after his demise, his widow and children moved to Mississippi.

James H. Bell lived in Arbacoochee beat. He was anti war and a Union man. The Bells were recognized and known far and wide as good, honorable and respected citizens. James H. Bell was a very prominent character in politics, and a man of means and influence. I believe he died in 1894, at his home near Bell's Mills, in Cleburne County

R. S. M. Hunter, or "Bob Hunter" as he was generally known and called lived at Wedowee; was 33 years of age; anti war and Union man; a retail whiskey dealer; profane and dissipated in habits; though pleasant, kind and neighborly. An affectionate and loving husband and father. By some means, the writer has forgotten what he was conscripted, although a county officer. No doubt, however it was because he boldly and fearlessly, privately and publicly, denounced the County State and Confederate administration; and gave the county officials uneasiness and apprehensions of personal danger. He was quiet, peaceable and law-abiding; yet bold and fearless. Being arrested and paroled by a Brigade Commander; rather than to go into service and take up arms against the cause of the Union, he crossed the line to the Federalist. Some time subsequently he visited his

family and was captured; making no effort to resist by violence. (the writer being present). His capture was caused through the treachery of a masonic friend known to the writer; but, perhaps, not to him. He narrowly escaped being mobbed by soldiers who first arrested him. He owed his escape to bravery, strategy and loyalty to law of three friends, T. N. Berryhill, W. J. Taylor and the writer. They hid him out for a few days and then saw that he was delivered to the civil authorities at Talladega. Here he managed through "a bad case of small pox" to escape and cross the Jordan of proscription into the Union army of security and protection. Mrs. Hunter was a Miss Emily Glover, of Heard county, Georgia. She was of a good family and is a noble lady. She now lives 8 miles west of Wedowee at the late home of her husband who died in 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter were neighbors and personal friends of the writer and had been for many years. Bob was ex-sheriff, ex-Tax Assessor. Almond P. Hunter's eldest son. His remains lie in the Masonic cemetery at Wedowee. Peace to his memory.

1866.—W. C. Robertson, John W. Noles, John D. Windsor and James H. Bell.

William C. Robertson was a Bell Whig; voted against secession; an anti-war and Union man when elected; 65 years of age and born in S. C. in 1801. Lived five miles east from Wedowee on the Franklin road. A carpenter by trade, merchandised and ran a farm. Brother of Dr. R. L. Robertson and father of ex-sheriff W. C. S. Robertson, of Wedowee, Joseph W. Robertson, of High Shoals, Mrs. Agnes Enloe; of Langdale; Mrs. Thomas Pollard, of Georgia; Mrs. John Tenant, of near Wedowee; and Bob Robertson of Texas. Was well informed; had high and noble aspirations, a steadfast friend and an open enemy. He had moral and temperate habits, and was safe, prudent and conservative, making a good Commissioner—died in 1868.

John W. Noles lived in Lamar beat; 38 years of age; an ordained Baptist minister. Owned a mill and ran a farm. A Union man, when elected and was exempted as miller and preacher and was not in the war. He now lives in Clay county merchandising, said to be well to do financially. He was one of those few Baptist ministers who believe, or at least preached, "that unless the Lord gave him a text and put the words into his

mouth, he couldn't preach." The writer remembers once, at Wedowee, going to hear him when he said, "Brethren, I don't know what will be my text. The Lord hasn't given me one yet; and unless he does and puts the words into my mouth, I won't preach. It won't be John Noles preaching, but the Lord's" (Turning the leaves of the Bible at the time, until finally he stopped and said,) "the Lord has given me a text." Rev. J. P. Shaffer was present and after leaving the church in company with Noles and the writer said: "Bro. Noles, do you believe what you preach? Yes, Brother Shaffer, don't you?" "No, Brother Noles, I repudiate that God and that sermon, I worship the true and living, and a different God, to the one that preached that harangue. He has been Moderator of his Association since then, but it is not known whether he is still the mouth piece of God or not. I have heard white women, white and black men preach frequently, but "Lord" only once.

John D. Windsor lived in Louina beat; was 51 years of age; a Union man, and said to be a good clever neighbor and citizen. He was elected township trustee; and I believe, Justice of the Peace several times.

Number Thirty-Two

County Commissioners—Continued

1868—J. M. Kitchens, J. B. Cooley, A. Bowen and S. McDonald.

James M. Kitchens. (See serial on Tax Collector.)

John B. Cooley, of Almond, Flat Rock beat, was 43 years of age and a republican. He merchandised and ran a farm; was a pleasant accommodating and useful neighbor, and good citizen. He made an honest effort to advance the interest of the county and her people. He never, so far as the writer remembers suffered his political prejudice to wrongfully lead him to an injustice in his official acts; though, at the time; partisan strife ran high; the golden rule not recognizable, but ay eye for ay eye; a tooth for a tooth, saith—as thou hath sown thou shalt reap. He had a good heart and it bore Christian fruit. He didn't live long after his term expired of Commissionership expired; honored, loved and mourned by all.

Alanson Bowen was 66 years of age; lived in Wedowee beat; a republican, and had been a Union man during the war, though a Whig previously. He was a man of fine sense, good intentions, a zealous Christian with temperate moral habits; yet an unconquerable enemy and bitter partisan. Was a deacon in the Wedowee Baptist Church for several years. Refused to hear a secession preacher preach during the war. Mrs. Benjamin P. Dodson and Mrs. H. H. Huckeba are the only two of a large family of children living. He lived several years after his term as Commissioner expired, and as he grew older he became childish and helpless until his death. He had one brother, William C. Bowen, the writer loved as David did Jonathan. Mrs. W. C. Bowen died and was buried at the Masonic Cemetery in 1855-6; he then moved to Pine Bluff, Texas, on west bank of the Sabine river, in 1856-7.

Samuel McDonald lived in Lamar beat; was 56 years of age; a republican and a farmer. He is still living, I believe, honored and loved by his neighbors.

1872.—W. H. Culpepper, W. H. Osborn, W. D. Lovvorn and I. N. Brown.

William H. Culpepper was 59 years of age; lived in Flat Rock beat; a republican and Union man; a prominent and leading member of the M. E. Church, and still living and reflecting his Christian light, life and character which shines brightly and brilliantly in the constellation of the fixed stars of God's spiritual and temporal kingdom, and enjoying the fullness of the promises made, ordained and purposed by God to his Children.

William H. Osborn was a resident citizen of Roanoke beat; 58 years of age; a farmer, and a republican in whom there was no guile, hypocrisy or deception; honest faithful and reliable in his acts and dealings; prompt and efficient as an officer; dutiful and zealous as a Christian; pleasant, sociable and kind as a neighbor; liberal to the poor and sympathetic for the troubled and afflicted. In December 1892, I believe it was, he bid adieu to this earth and the ties of nature that associated him, you and I together.

William D. Lovvorn lived in Lamar beat; was 41 year of age; a republican being a miller was exempted from conscription

during the war, was of course, conservative, liberal and accommodating. After the war, he began to accumulate property and loan money on mortgages at a high per cent which it was said: "he invariably collected." He was nominated by the County Republican Convention in 1872, for representative and defeated John W. Thomason as democrat. His acts, with few exceptions, were conservative. A man of fine thought, big heart, liberal hand and Christian character. Is a zealous Baptist, an uncompromising republican and a successful money maker. He is living near Bowden, Ga.

Thomas N. Brown lived near Clay county line, in the Ike Young or Dingler settlement, Fox Creek beat. He was a tender-footed republican and a good easy, clever kind-of-fellow; a man of good sense, sound judgement, honest intentions, with little energy. He had a noble, pleasant and amiable wife. She could not have been otherwise since she was a sister of John, Dick, George and Bud Hill and Mesdames Moses and Dock Hardy. Tom resigned shortly after his election and was living when last heard from.

David A. Perryman was appointed vice W. D. Lovvorn resigned. (See serials on Tax Assessors).

C. A. Prescott was appointed in 1873, vice T. N. Brown resigned. He was a republican; 36 years of age; a miller and farmer and lived in Lamar beat. He was a volunteer conscript and sent to the conscript camp at Talladega, if the writer remembers correctly. Moved to Wedowee in 1876 or 77, and went into the mercantile business where he still continues and has accumulated a good property. He is a deacon in Wedowee Baptist Church. Mrs. C. A. Prescott was a school mate of the writer and a daughter of Jack Morrow. She is one of those unassuming, plain, domestic, Christian mothers; indispensable to the church and community in which she lives.

Number Thirty-Three

County Commissioners—Continued

1875.—W. P. Jackson, W. S. Mayfield, J. N. Lovvorn and E. Carter. First Democratic since before the war.

William P. Jackson, of Flat Rock, beat, was a farmer and member of the M. E. Church South. In politics, he was an extreme partisan Democrat. Being honorable and just in his private dealings, he shared the full confidence and respect of his neighbors. Being selfwilled and self-righteous, with implicit and confiding confidence in his party; and believing that by him and others elected the wrongs were to be arighted and the waste places reset with evergreens and roses. He soon realized, however, it was a prodigious undertaking but believed it feasible. And like many other good men whose honesty and ambition are greater than their ability and capacity, imagined and opportunity was the thing needful. His party had preached it, wrote it, talked it, and illustrated it so often and persistently until it was believed and wanted, and perhaps by none more so than Uncle Billy. The Democrats had not been in office since before the war. They said, "Unless we get in and change things, everything will soon go to ruin and decay." The leaders hyperbole and sterotype the wrongs and burdens laid on the farmers, until they believed, like the silly, innocent and misguided Democrats believed Grover Cleveland, could and would if elected, Correct all wrongs and relieve all wants. Yes, they believed it, voted for it and wanted it. Uncle Billy soon found this Democratic Jordan was too soft to walk on, too deep to wade and too wide to swim. The task undertaken was hopeless, a thing that had not been anticipated. Having always guarded his word and honor with fidelity, he chafed under restraint and became sullen at defeat, and, at one time, seriously considered tendering his resignation, but the opportunity he had coveted so long to retaliate on his enemies, who had piqued him on all occasions, would be lost and his friends and party would feel he had hopelessly deserted them. This was too much for his loyalty and patriotism, and it was said, a "siere facias" had been issued to his party he was willing to be offered as a sacrifice again.

William S. Mayfield lived in Bac-on Level beat, was a manufacturer of earthern ware and ran a farm: a Baptist, Mason and Democrat, 45 years of age, and had served as a soldier in the Confederate army. He was pleasant, agreeable and sociable; open, frank and liberal; kind, generous and hospitable, moral, temperate and conservative, and now is a citizen of Roanoke.

John N. Lovvorn ("Free John") of Lamar beat; a miller and farmer, and a conservative Democrat. Mild, pleasant and un-

assuming, not disposed to criticism or to meddle with business that didn't concern him. Had few, if any enemies; a man of good sense and judgement, but no turn, disposition or inclination to wrestle with the public business, or at least, manifested none. Is still living at same place and is now about 63 years of age.

Enoch Carter, of Saxon beat, was a merchant and farmer; a Baptist, Mason and Democrat; well informed, energetic and progressive. He was elected to the legislature in 1886 and made a very creditable member. He was zealous in the cause of temperance, morality and Christianity. He was ever ready to be present and help the Church and the Sunday school. He died a few years since.

1877.—I. T. Weathers, J. C. Wright, R. A. Arnett and Charles Davis. People's ticket.

Isham T. Weathers was a Georgian by birth; came to the county with H. M. Gay about the time of its organization and ran a black-smith shop; afterwards went back to his home in Georgia and married his present wife, and in 1836 moved to and near his old home in High Shoals beat, and has been a citizen of the county ever since. He was when elected, 64 years of age, a farmer and had always voted the Democratic ticket; had been Justice of the Peace for several years, but never ran for nor was a candidate for any other office until put out on the People's ticket, he was elected, as was all the ticket by a large majority. Uncle Tom is now 82 and 83 years of age, hail and hearty, though not able to get out and about much. He has had the misfortune to lose the sight of one eye. Aunt Sarah his better half, is still by his side to nurture and console his declining days. Almost sixty years ago, two loving hearts confided their lives, companionship and happiness to each other's care, and today those same hearts with nine loving sons and daughters, are still one in thought, purpose and desire. God grant they may live many years yet, to enjoy the good they have done.

John C. Wright, of Louina beat, was 49 years of age; a farmer, Mason and Baptist. He was well informed and had tact for business for which he seemed to readily fraternize. He was a Democrat, though conservative; good natured, pleasant and easily approached. Had never had any office but Justice of

the Peace and did not seek this one. He is still living and retains the good will and confidence of the people, and it is said will be the next tax collector of Randolph county. Certainly there is no man in the county to day that deserves it more or would fill the position better than John C. Wright. He is as honest as Caesar's wife was virtuous.

Richmond A. Arnett, was from Bacon Level beat; a farmer, and made a good living. He was a member of Roanoke Baptist Church and had always voted the Democratic ticket. He was 49 years of age and had never asked or run for an office. He loved the dollar and knew its worth and believed the county should have value received for all moneys paid out, extortion and extravagance were abominations to his sensibilities of right. When he believed he was right, he maintained it, though not wholly indifferent to reason, yet there had to be a better one than he had to change him. He loved justice and practiced economy, not only at home, but in his official acts. Never had there been a time in the history of the county that demanded a better, truer or more fearless Commissioner's Court; never was there four better men found; never did a vote cast pay better dividends. If the tax payers and voters in the county knew what the writer does, they would honor Rich Arnett and John C. Wright (Uncle Tom and Charley are physically unable to serve with their votes in 1896.)

Rev. Charles Davis, from Hopkins beat, in the 66th year of his age only locally known at the time, proved himself worthy the support and confidence given.

Number Thirty-Four

County Commissioners—Continued

1880.—T. T. Holly, J. N. Lipham, W. W. Stitt and J. M. Gay.

Thomas T. Holly, of near Rock Mills, was a farmer and owned a mill. He was a man of good moral and temperate habits and as clever as he could be; Democratic in politics, open and fair in dealings; liberal and conservative in his official acts. He married a daughter of Jacob Eichelberger and sister of Charlie and George. Uncle Jacob was one of the best informed and most prominent men in the county. The Hollys were all hightoned and well

respected. Tom was a brother to Len Holley who now resides at Roanoke. Tom was a special friend of the writer, and it was sad news to hear of his demise which occurred a few years since.

Rev. James N. Lipham, of Rockdale beat, preacher and democrat. His education and business qualities were ordinary, a good clever and highly respected citizen and neighbor; and, was said to be, very prominent in the councils and ministry of the Primitive Baptist faith and doctrines. He is still living.

William W. Stritt lives in High Shoals beat; a Presbyterian, farmer and democrat. A good safe and conservative man, and liked by his neighbors. An ex-Confederate soldier and was honorably discharged; though wounded and disabled, had the good fortune to get home alive. Married Col. James Aiken's sister, a nice and lovely lady. He is 63 years of age and still living.

J. M. Gay lived in Flat Rock beat; was 32 years of age and voted the democratic ticket, was looked upon as a little extraordinary, erudite and promising young man. Acute, luminous and voluptuous and egotistical and many of his ideas were extravagant and intangible. His perceptions often proved treacherous to his good intentions and obstructed business. It was further said, when obstructed, he was petulant and obstinate. This, you know is common and general with smart ambitious and egotistical young men. Though constitutional, it doesn't always kill—some hope yet.

1884.—A. J. Green, W. V. Taylor, and H. D. Lanier, J. M. Gay, re-elected.

Andrew Jackson Green lived in High Shoals beat; a farmer, democrat and Baptist. Jack was one of those industrious, hard working farmers who made plenty at home to live on and meant well, a man of good sense and judgement, but limited in education and business qualifications. He stood well with his neighbors and endeavored to discharge his official duties with fidelity and promptness. He still lives.

William V. Taylor, of Roanoke beat, age 46 years, a farmer and democrat; a man of good judgement, and knows the value of a dollar and has a disposition to keep it or get value received.

when paid out. Acting on this experience in public affairs made him useful and efficient often in allowing claims. Has a good home and plenty around him and now lives and enjoys it.

H. D. Landers, of Morrison's beat, was a farmer, Baptist and democrat. Is now merchandising, I believe, and doing very well. His neighbors respect him very highly and speak well of his many Christian virtues.

1888.—H. M. Mickle, J. H. Leftwich, W. G. Preston and W. M. Moon.

Hugh M. Mickle, of Roanoke beat; 58 years of age, born and raised within a few miles of where he now lives; Baptist, Mason, democrat and farmer; standing pre-eminently at the head and in the front rank of Randolph's best and most worthy men. He is the son of James M. Mickle, one of the first bonafide settlers in the southern part of the county in 1832 or 33. He is a brother of M. J. Mickle, Esq., who doubtless, is the oldest living inhabitant in the county today. William Phillips, of Langdale, son of Daniel Phillips, who entered land in 1831, is the oldest living inhabitant, while Mrs. Fletcher Haynes, nee Wood, now in her 62 or 63 year is the first white child born in the county, so far as the writer has been able to learn.

J. H. Leftwich, hailed from Fox Creek, an imported school teacher, said to be very well informed, good moral character and well thought of by his neighbors.

W. G. Preston, of Halpin's beat, an aged and highly respected farmer, an old citizen and democrat, honored and loved, sociable and neighborly, conservative and liberal.

W. M. Moon, of Lamar beat, school teacher, well informed, moral and temperate habits. Cripple and uses crutches and stick. Still living and well respected.

1892.—W. J. Barrett, George French, W. J. Cofield and W. R. Sharman.

William J. Barrett, of Rock Mills beat, a farmer and Populist; a good and clever man, makes a good and efficient Commis-

sioner; liberal and conservative, manifests zeal and earnestness in the county's welfare, generally acts wisely and judicially. Under special act of the legislature, first term expired in August 1894 and he was re-elected and now serving his second term of two years.

George W. French lives 2 miles north of Wedowee; a Methodist, Populist and farmer. George has a long head; generally digs deep and builds a good foundation, but sometimes the material is not first class and the wall gives and roof leaks and the inmates complain. Robinson, the contractor for the Iron Bridge on the Little Tallapoosa river, said to the writer; "Commissioner French got closer after me than any one I have ever contracted with;" and, said he, "I have a varied experience in the business." He was re-elected in 1894, and is serving his second term of two years.

W. J. Cofield, of Halpins beat, is a merchant, farmer and Populist, a man of good appearance, good morals, good financier, and stands well at home; liberal, conservative, reserved and pleasant. His present term as Commissioner expires in August 1896.

William R. Sharman, of Bacon Level beat, is a Baptist, Populist and Farmer; a good clever, upright man, with good judgement, pleasant unassuming manners, liberal, free and accommodating neighbor; honest, industrious and economical, and acts from judgement rather than impulse. He is now, and has been during the greater portion of 1895 in Fla. This creates a vacancy and can only be filled by appointment of the Governor.

RANDOLPH'S STATE SENATORS

Number Thirty-Five

1840.—Up to this time, Randolph county had had no representative in the State Senate, but in 1839, the General Assembly made a reapportionment of Senators and Representatives, and Chambers and Randolph counties were made a Senatorial District.

George Reese, of Chambers county, was elected. It is not remembered now whether he was a Whig or Democrat. His acts,

as a member, seems to indicate he was an honest fearless Independent. He voted to allow the Whigs to illuminate the Capitol in honor of William Henry Harrison's election to the Presidency of the United States, but it was laid on the table, the democrats having the majority. Voted with the Whigs to take from the table but it was defeated. He offered a resolution proposing the Whig party of the Senate have the use of the Senate Chamber. Voted for W. R. King, a Democrat for U. S. Senator. Voted against Peyton King's preamble and resolution to unpurge any member who voted other than for his party. In other words, no Representative or Senator is authorized to exercise discretionary power, but is bound to vote for that individual whose political opinions may accord with those of a majority of his constituents. He seems to have stood alone and independently of party when the public good demanded it. His people, at home, endorsed and re-elected him as his own successor. Alabama's Populist U. S. Senator must be a chip from the same stump.

1845-6.—Jefferson Falkner, of Wedowee, Randolph county was elected. He died in July, 1895, at the home of his youngest son. Hon. Jeff Falkner, Jr., in the city of Montgomery. See serials on County Judge and clerk.

1874-50.—Seborn Gray, of Tallapoosa county was elected Senator from Tallapoosa and Randolph Co's as a democrat. The re-apportionment in 1845, gave Chambers county, which had rapidly grown to be the largest county in population in the State, one Senator and four Representatives. This accounts for Randolph and Tallapoosa being a Senatorial district. In 1850, Randolph had grown in population and became a senatorial district and with two Representatives in the House.

1851-2.—John T. Heflin, of Wedowee was elected. He was a son of Wyatt Heflin, brother of Hon. S. and Dr. W. L. Heflin; Mrs. W. P. Poole, Mrs. John Blake and Mrs. H. R. Gay. His father moved from Georgia to Randolph county in 1834, or 35, and settled on High Pine creek near the present Concord church and cemetery and in Louina beat. Judge Heflin was a boy of fourteen well advanced in his studies at school when his father moved in the midst of the Indians, and his acute and incentive nature to learn was greatly assisted; for here was a race with life, habits and language that was new and interesting, and his active, energetic and inquiring mind feasted on Indian dialect.

Judge Heflin was 31 years of age; a bright and promising young lawyer and a zealous democrat when elected, who never voted other than for the nominee of his party. This he would do though he refused to speak to him. Was a rabid secessionist and a minute war man. But he, like many others of that sort, somehow or other did not go, and those that did, got out somehow or other. When they could, they substituted office for war, and served their country like patriots. Grover Cleveland like. In 1836 Judge Heflin, Judge Bob Dougherty and Judge Jefferson Falkner were candidates for Circuit Judge, and again in 1863, Judge Heflin was a candidate for Circuit Judge; in 1875, was in the State Constitutional Convention from Talladega county; in 1878, I believe it was, his name was placed before the Democratic State Convention for Supreme Court Judge, but he refused to allow it pressed and it was withdrawn. In 1885, his name was highly commended for United States Supreme Court Judge. No man, not even his political and personal enemies, challenged his ability, but unlike him they refused to rise above personality. Judge Heflin was a strict disciplinarian and dispatched business rapidly when on the bench.

Judge Heflin had an extraordinary memory. Often quoting book, page, chapter, section and word for word of the Supreme Court decision. He was called, in Talladega, "The Walking Library." Lawyers, rather than trouble themselves with hunting up decisions and rulings on cases, when in his presence, invariably referred to him. He knew what the initials stood for in nearly every name of any notoriety in the county. He was a linguist of Indian names, folklore and tradition. As a general thing men don't realize the value and usefulness of noble men and women in their associations while living, but when they move away or die, and no one to supply their place, then they realize and regret their indifference, though lessness and loss. Judge Heflin's attainments as a lawyer, scholar, historian and biographer with his many traits of honesty, fidelity, integrity and liberality, were perhaps, not equaled by any other man in the State. He was irritable, quick to resent an insult or insinuation, so much so, he made enemies unnecessarily and unintentionally. So far as the writer knows, he never sought or made any pretensions to Christianity though he believed and accepted the Bible as the word of God given by inspiration. He often read it and quoted from it precepts of love, mercy, truth and wisdom.

He honored the Christian church, its members and ministers. Believed Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God; Saviour of soul; and when approached by a person living a consistent Christian life on the subject of religion, he reasoned wisely from a worldly standpoint. The writer remembers hearing him say "I am a Hardshell Baptist in belief." His mother did, and I believe, his father, too held to the teachings and doctrines of the Primitive faith. In manners he was austere, haughty, arrogant and petulant; in conversation jovial, loquacious and entertaining; in passion aggressive, merciless, profane, tyrannical and vindictive; as a friend to the manor born; egotistical in ridicule and criticism characterizing everybody by occupation, habits, form, accident or incident just like the Indian did. He had a redundant command and flow of language, but his delivery was obtuse without effulgency, magnetism or animation.

His voice was husky, harsh and acrid. Like Moses, poor in speech, but learned and wise in law and equity; a close tireless student; prodigious thinker; wise counselor and righteous judge; an invective opponent and invariable democrat; no deception, hypocrisy nor sevility about him. His whole life seems to have been wrapped up in his profession, an exile to society and sociability. Moved from Wedowee to Jacksonville about 1857 and from there to Talladega in 1858-9. There he met, wooed, won and married Mrs. Frank Bowden, one of the most amiable and esteemed ladies in the State. They had no children, but he educated and associated his step-son, Frank Bowden, Jr., in the practice of law. After Mrs. Heflin's death, he located at Birmingham and in December 1888 his voice was stilled in death—life's work ended; faults forgiven, virtues treasured and now his body lies somnolently beneath a beautiful monument in old Concord's cemetery; where near by lies father and mother in sleep until the resurrection of the dead, "Jure divino."

Number Thirty-Six

1853-4.—Henry M. Gay, of Louina beat, was 41 years of age, a farmer and a stock raiser. When a young man in his twenty-first year, he and Isham T. (Uncle Tom) Weathers migrated from Fayette county, Georgia to Randolph; kept bachelor's hall, ran a blacksmithing business, sold goods and traded with the settlers and Indians. A few years after they both married, and Gay

settled what is now known as the "old Gay homestead" on the Wedowee and Malone (Wafer) ferry-road.

When the County Democratic Convention met there were several candidates before it for Senator, and after several ballots and withdrawals had been made, a two-thirds vote being necessary to a choice, there was but little hopes and no indications of a break so long as the present candidates were in the race. The convention adjourned for dinner, and Mr. Elijah Humphries friends made a proposition to Mr. Gay's friends. That they would support Mr. Gay for Senator, if they, Gay's friends, would support Humphries for Representative. The proposition was accepted and Gay nominated. Mr. Gay when charged afterwards with the trade, denied all knowledge of it on his part. But it evidently handicapped him and came very near defeating his election; and did defeat Humphries. The writer, a boy of 17, took in the canvass, and remembers the State and County tickets:

For Governor:

John A. Winston, d.
A. Q. Nicks, w.
Walker,
Earnest

For Congress:

James F. Dowdle, d.
Thomas F. Garrett, w.

For State Senator:

Henry M. Gay, d.
Thomas F. Lundie, w.

For Representative:

W. P. Newell, d.
Elijah Humphries, d.
John Goodwin, w.
R. G. Roberts, w.

For Sheriff:

Wilson Falkner, d.
J. M. Hearn,
Hardy Strickland,

The canvass was hotly contested and the result in doubt until the last vote was counted and returns all in, and, then,

neither party would concede the election nor his defeat, Charges and counter charges were made, and a general fight came very near being precipitated. The law required the coroner to recount the votes within ten days after the election. J. M. Hearn, candidate for sheriff, was coroner, and the Democrats were in a strait. They wanted Goodwin defeated, and it was believed if Hearn counted the vote it would be impossible. They kicked, snorted, cowed and cajoled, but all to no purpose, while the Whigs crackled, teased and ridiculed them. Coroner Hearn relieved their fears by allowing each party to have a representative present. When the ballots were counted, Gay's majority 34 and Goodwin's 11. The democrats elected the rest of their ticket. Gay succeeded himself in 1855. In 1861, he was elected on Co-operation ticket to ordinance Secession Convention.

1857-8.—R. S. Heflin, an ex-soldier, of the Indian war of 1836, and a promising practicing lawyer, 42 years of age and a citizen of Wedowee, was nominated and elected by the Democrats. Bob previously represented the county in the lower House of the General Assembly in 1849 and 50. He was a fine speaker, and perhaps, the most popular man Randolph county ever had before or since. In 1859-60, 61 and 62, he was his own successor. Was a Stephen A. Douglas democrat and opposed the war and secession. Gay, the Smiths and Woods, all went with him, but Judge John T. Heflin and other prominent Democrats supported John C. Breckinridge and secession. In 1864 he was arrested for treason to the Confederate States. He and ex-Governor W. H. Smith having made, as alleged, treason speeches at a public meeting in the Court House a few days previously. He took advantage of a parole and went across the line to the enemy where he remained until Lee's surrender. In August, 1865, he was appointed Probate Judge and held until Judge W. W. Dodson's election in 1868, and in 1869, was elected to Congress as a Republican. He was defeated in 1880 for Probate Judge by T. J. Thomason. Was a candidate in 1884, for representative but defeated by Dr. C. B. Taylor. In 1886 he was nominated by the Republican State Convention for Attorney General; although defeated, ran ahead of the ticket. Now, in his 81st year, with mental force abated and eyes dim. Providence hath provided him a pension as an Indian soldier of 1836. Twenty-two years ago, his wife died leaving him a house full of little children, and he married Miss Mentoria Reaves, daughter of Judge John

Reaves, of Wedowee. Mentoria, though a little girl when her mother died, was the stay and dependence of the family; and in the place of a mother, helped to raise and provide for three sets of children of her father, and two sets for Bob, her husband. A woman among women; gentle and kind; motherly and affectionate; domestic and provident; thoughtful and careful; modest and pleasant; hopeful and dutiful and by her humble patient Christian walk and conversation, a few years ago, had the sweet consolation to see her husband, a profane and ungodly man, baptised into the fellowship of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church—the “called and elect” of God. And now, in his old age and declining days, after a long, honored and eventful life; in the plentitude of love, mercy and goodness of God, in giving him a benevolent Christian companion to cherish and nurture him in peace and love, awaits the summons ere the silver cord be loosed or the golden bowl be broken or the pitcher or the wheel at the cistern to bid her who has been a true helpmate, made his days happy and home pleasant; not forgetting to point out the way of righteousness, peace on earth, and life eternal, in the world to come. He who ere long will by the course of nature have this earthly tabernacle dissolved and fall asleep in Jesus, to await the sound of Gabriel’s trumpet in the morning of the resurrection. “It doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know we shall be like him (“the Son of Man”) in the resurrection of the dead.”

Number Thirty-Seven

1863.—Capt. W. T. Wood of Chulafinnee beat, was elected. See serial on Tax Assessors.

1865.—Middleton R. Bell, of Chulafinnee beat, was elected. He was a brother of County Commissioner J. H. Bell, 40 years of age and a well to-do farmer; an active, energetic and leading citizen; with union sentiments predominating during the war; since, a Republican. He is now living at or near Bell’s mills, in Cleburne county.

1867.—Hicks H. Wise, of Cleburne county, was elected. See serial on Circuit Clerks.

1872.—James J. Robinson, of Chambers county, was elected and was the first Democrat to represent Randolph county in the

Senate since ante-bellum days. He had a hard struggle in getting then nomination, but finally pulled through. In 1876, the Democrats were in full possession of the State and every other man wanted office. It was indirectly conceded at the last Senatorial Convention that Randolph should have the nomination. The bosses and place hunters began to form in clicks and rings and sparring began in earnest as to who should be who. Senator Robinson was a putative candidate, so, also, Col. J. H. Denson, of LaFayette. Randolph had hers, too. When the Convention met at Roanoke, Randolph's delegates would not, or at least did not harmonize on any one man. Chambers county had the majority of the delegation, but they, too, refused to harmonize. There were 38 delegates: 26 were necessary to make the nomination. Chambers had 25, Randolph 13. On the first ballot Robinson 19, Denson 9, Heflin 10. After several ballots, Heflin's name withdrew and Ricke, Ussery and others were substituted with a slight variation of the vote. The convention adjourned for dinner and several of the delegates from Chambers expressed themselves perfectly willing to take a good man from Randolph if her delegates would unite. So an agreement was made to vote for all the men whose names had been before the convention seriatim, the man receiving the highest vote should be the candidate and was to be supported without variation-uno animon-until next election. One delegate voted 25 ballots for his man. The writer called the attention of the delegation to the fact that there were only 13 votes from Randolph county. A new ballot showed Dr. W. L. Heflin to be the strongest man from Randolph, but when placed before the Senatorial Convention as Randolph's choice, two of her delegates voted for Denson. After a few ballots without change, Randolph's delegation withdrew to consult. It was agreed to cast one more vote for Heflin, and if no change to withdraw his name and vote for whom they pleased. The vote stood: Robinson 19, Heflin 11, and Denson 8, Heflin's name withdrawn, Robinson 26 and Denson 12. The writer and six others from Randolph voted for Robinson, Judge Davis and five others voted for Denson. Robinson was nominated and re-elected. In 1866, he was a candidate for Probate Judge of Chambers county, but was defeated by Rev. W. C. Bledsoe in the County Convention for the nomination. "Barkis" like, being willing, he became an independent candidate and his solidarity assumed a dark companionship by the change of venue; however, he defeated the Democratic nomination at the election.

In 1894, he was nominated by the "Tom Jones Organized" for the legislature and badly beaten by C. H. Cole and J. H. Harris Populists. He is now living and practicing law at LaFayette.

1880.—Robert S. Pate, of Randolph, was nominated at Milltown by the Democratic convention and elected. He was a bright and promising young lawyer in his 38th year and a native born Randolphian. His father, James Pate, moved to the county in the fall of 1834, or spring of 1835, and settled near where Dick Green now lives, South of old High Pine Baptist Church. Bob is a brother of G. G. (Bird) and Thomas F. Pate and Mrs. Dick Green, who are all well known and highly respected. He married Miss Sue Scales, sister to Mrs. Mollie Burton and daughter of James Scales. Mrs. Pate is sociable, pleasant and amiable; and, of course, has associated with her a whole-soul big-hearted clever husband, ever standing with open arms and friendly greeting to his host of friends. Bob is as honest as the days are long, as free as the water that runs. He is not one of the covetous kind, don't want nor wouldn't have more than a living. He is said to be, "the best criminal lawyer at Wedowee's bar." Being born, bred and rocked in the cradle of Jeffersonian Democracy, he stands with the honest laboring yeomanry of his country; ready at any and at all times to battle for their rights, interest and wants. He, like hundreds and thousands of other true and tried men, was forced to break ranks and leave the Tom Cleveland and Grover Jones Democracy. Self respect, consistency, decency, honesty and respectability; ought, certainly, to justify his course with the people. He stands, today, in the front ranks of Populist simplicity and consistency; and, will, if the vox populi have the good will to say, head and lead them to victory in 1896. Bob was a brave and gallant Confederate soldier; standing at the head of his company led his men and drove back the invading enemy. Bob works well in the lead. Try him.

1884.—N. D. Denson, of LaFayette, a very prominent young lawyer and a true and faithful member of LaFayette Baptist church, succeeded Pate. His moral and temperate habits; Christian character and deportment; acts and walk, won the confidence and secured the endorsement of the people; and in 1892 he was elected Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit. He will however, have a hard road to travel should he again offer in 1896. It is said: "He is building his fences for another term, using Populist timbers." On the other hand his friends say: "He will not

offer, owing to his delicate health, but retire and recruit up." Whether this be true or not, it is evidently the only prudent and conservative course for his future; for no man can command the support or confidence of intelligent voters, whose political es-cutcheon trails in the associations and councils of deception, treachery, extravagance and debauchery at the expense of the dependent poor, suffering and famishing humanity that Clevelandism has seasoned with gall.

Number Thirty-Eight

1888.—Hon. William A. Handley, of Roanoke, was nominated by the Democratic Senatorial convention. He was 53 years of age and a retired merchant. Captain Handley was the son of Mr. John R. Handley and brother of Captain, Frank M.; Major James M.; Dr. John R.; Bowden A. Handley and two unmarried sisters. His father was an early settler of the county. The writer remembers seeing him when a small boy. Uncle Jack as he was sometimes called, invariably attended Circuit Court, County Conventions, Public Speakings and other public occasions at Wedowee, and was an enthusiastic democrat; always on hand as a delegate from Wesobulga beat. Whether or no he got his choice at the convention he endorsed the nominee; and, as for that, everything else said or done by the convention and his party. It is not remembered now whether Uncle Jack ever ran for any office or not. Yet there is an indistinct impression on my mind that he was once nominated or before the convention as a candidate for the legislature; however, if so there was no incident connecting it of notoriety, or the writer would have doubtless remembered it. Mrs. John R. Handley, Captain's mother, the writer never saw to know, but from her general character she was modest, pleasant, charitable, motherly, domestic, amiable and lovely. There is one incident associated with her name I'll relate which like a diamond in the sky ever so high shines and portrays a noble Christian spirit of humanity living in her heart. It is this: A few years ago, there was a negro boy and white man sentenced and started on their way to the chain gang under the care and control of a callous hearted and cruel wretch who stopped over night at Uncle Jack's on his way with his prisoners. The night was dark and cold, and wind strong and biting; ground frozen hard and next morning covered with snow. On one side of the house there was a veranda and shed at the end in which

the guard slept, the other part of the veranda was open and to one of its posts the two prisoners were chained and there to remain until morning, tired, wet with sweat, (for they had been forced to travel at the rate of six miles an hour chained to the axle-tree of the guard's buggy) and hungry without anything to eat or sleep upon except the cold hard floor. Mrs. Handley protested and importuned the wretch until he shirked for his own safety and comfort. She gave the prisoners a good and warm supper and some quilts to keep them from suffering and freezing. At 1 o'clock a. m. an Angel touched them and said: "Arise, make haste, get thee up northward; thou are free." They arose, the chain parted in the middle and they were not, as though they had wings and flown away. My readers have doubtless heard Capt. Handley tell about his serrated trials in boyhood days which would be redundancy to relate them here. There is, however, a very remarkable character of versatility vested in his life from juvenility to senility. It has followed him like a manes in every pursuit and occupation of life. His sinuated disposition seems to have aided him in his political and financial advancement, upon which, he has established a reputation for popularity and liberality; for no one can truthfully say he is parsimonious, though his whole life and aim have been to accumulate money and his success redundantly ambidextrous. His enthusiasm and zeal, if anything, exceeded his father's. He headed his beat delegation and took an active part in the Democratic County Convention before his majority. He would estuate, cogitate, then collate and wheedle with the delegates to carry his point; if he failed, like Josh Billings, when the cow kicked over the bucket and spilled the milk, he grabbed the bucket and went for another cow. In 1872, the old war horses were all disfranchised; that is, those who had took up arms or sympathized with the Confederacy. This eliminated all the office seeking element in the Democratic party. Only here and there, could a man be found eligible. Dr. W. L. Heflin, of Louina, now Roanoke, was tendered the nomination of Congressman from this the third district, but as his brother, Hon. R. S. Heflin was then serving his first term as a Republican and a punative candidate for reelection, Dr. Heflin declined. And without explanation or solicitation the Democratic Convention nominated Captain Bill Handley for Congress, and unexpectedly, elected him by a good majority. By hard work and wiley smirking he succeeded in getting some good legislation passed which was credited to his energy and

tact. In 1874, the Democratic Congressional Convention met at Opelika where there were several aspirants for the nomination, among them Capt. Handley. The writer was a delegate and scotched on taut pulls. Being editor of "The Randolph Enterprise" published at Wedowee, he published the acts passed and work done in Congress by Captain Handley and distributed it at the Convention. This aided materially in securing his nomination. But unfortunately a disappointed and defeated aspirant through malign treachery and manipulation of ballots in Russell county, defeated Captain Handley at the election, Charles A. Pelham, a Republican, securing the certificate of election. In 1888 he was elected Senator from Randolph and Chambers counties. In 1894, Dr. Jameson like, he failed to see the Amajuba Hill or pass Laing's Neck, for Judge S. E. A. Reaves, Populist, captured his pickets and spiked his artillery early in the fight. September 9, 1861, he made up a Company, elected captain and went to Mobile where his command stayed until July 1862. While at Mobile his health became delicate and he came home on furlough unable to do service. When his command was ordered to Tennessee, he went with it, but did not remain longer than the last day of July or first of August before he got a certificate of "heart affection." and a discharge from service. The writer got home from Virginia with an empty sleeve, July 29th, 1862, and a few days after Captain Handley was reported at home. Captain Handley, like other poor boys, had but few advantages, educationally. Poor boys had only two or three months to go to school. Spelling, reading, writing and ciphering was all that most school teachers could or professed to teach. "Webster's blue book" was used for spelling and reading. Smiley's arithmetic, goose quills, and red oak ball ink completed his panoply as an advance student. I could read and spell "by heart" half that was in those old blue backs before allowed to see inside of any other book. None but young men and ladies were allowed to "cipher." A teacher that could make a goose Quill pen, rule paper with his finger nails, repeat the multiplication table and teach Smith's Grammar to the ten rule—"Prepositions govern the objective case"—was a prodigy. A boy's highest aspirations in those days was to be a clerk in a store or grocery. This, Bill coveted and secured, and, from that time since, has been more or less in the mercantile business, while his versatile turn and tact shows he had hit his talent. He has had many promising out looks which his adventurous speculations have caused to be

downfalls. Perhaps his past experiences will sustain him in his present prosperity; at least it is to be hoped so.

Captain Handley has many good, genial and neighborly traits of hospitality, liberality, sociability, chivalry and companionship. He has a kind, tender, affectionate and penitent heart, but like the rich young ruler, he loves money.

1892.—H. M. Williams, of Chambers county, was elected to represent Chambers and Randolph. He is a farmer and Populist and a good and true man. So far as the writer knows, he has given general satisfaction and showed up on the right side, salt or no salt. His present term as Senator ends in 1896, and his successor is to be elected in August next.

Number Thirty-Nine

1837.—Thomas Blake was the first elect representative Randolph ever had in the State legislature. (See serial nos. 26 and 27 on county commissioners.) But as a matter of information, gathered from a recent publication I learn the acts of the general assembly of 1837, which had been thought lost or destroyed during the war, have been found and recovered to the archives of the State secretary's office. These acts with other important and valuable papers were found filed away in a Masonic lodge, where it is supposed they were carried during the war, for protection and preservation, and since forgotten. (In these serials the writer has had to rely to a great extent on tradition from 1832 to 1838 and for the want of official records and acts passed much valuable and interesting facts in the early days of Randolph county and her officials have escaped notice doubtless.) Uncle Tom died in 1880 in his eightieth year, and Aunt Deliah in 1895, in her eighty first year.

1838.—William McKnight (see serial no 27, county commissioners.)

1839.—F. F. Adrine (see serial on county treasurers.)

1840.—Wyatt Heflin of Big River, now Louina beat, was a farmer, 51 years of age and a democrat. He moved to Randolph county from Fayette county, Georgia, about 1835 or '36. He was

well-to-do financially and said to be the largest and best farmer on High Pine creek. He had a fair English education, fine intellectuality and good judgement. He succeeded himself in 1841, but in 1842 Jerry Murphy, whig, succeeded him in the legislature, and in 1843 he succeeded Jerry Murphy. In 1844 James H. Allen, whig, succeeded him. In 1845-6 he and Samuel T. Owens were elected. This was his last term in the legislature. During his latter days he moved to Louina, near his son, Dr. W. L. Heflin, and there he died. The writer knew but little about his private personality. His general character was good and he and wife were said to be Primitive (Hardshell) Baptist. Was the father of Hons. Robert S., Judge John T. and Dr. W. L. Heflin; Mrs. William P. Pool, Mrs. John Blake and Mrs. H. R. Gay who lived in this county and State. James Heflin lived in the State of Georgia until 1856, and then moved to Texas. The writer visited his grave at Concord cemetery in 1894. So far as the writer knows and remembers no other father and sons have been honored by the voters of Randolph County as has this one.

1842.—Jerry Murphy, a whig and farmer 26 years of age, was elected and succeeded Wyatt Heflin, Democrat. Jerry was a hustler, active and energetic, genial and wily. The first time the writer remembers seeing Jerry was during the Polk and Clay campaign in 1844. His defeat in 1843 by Wyatt Heflin and the selection of James H. Allen as the Whig candidate, didn't set well on Jerry's ambitious aspirations to make laws. He was on a "tar" and had a big crowd around to help him drink Murphy tips, with Clay mint and Allen sugar, at Jude Crow's fountain of pure homespun corn liquors. It was a public day, an election year and big crowd in town. In those days, men from all over the county came to town. The Democrats had Tom Pollard, a little boy, patting and singing:

"Sheep shell corn

By the rattle of the horn,

We'll shear old Clay

When the weather gets warm."

If the writer remembers correctly Jerry and Allen were defeated in 1845, by Wyatt Heflin and Samuel T. Owens. It is not remembered what became of Jerry Murphy.

1843.—Wyatt Heflin turned the tables on Jerry and went back to the legislature.

1844.—James H. Allen, a Whig and school teacher, defeated Wyatt Heflin, Democrat. Allen when the writer knew him, lived in Wedowee on lot No. 52, east of Mrs. Martha Smith's present home. He taught a ten months school afterwards in the old academy, where Prof. Richey is now teaching. The writer was a pupil and remembers the boys repaired the stick and clay chimney. The boys and girls "ciphering" were allowed to take their chairs and sit outside. While at dinner, some one put a coat of mud on one of the seats, and in retaliation, he put it on the others, and before Prof. Allen got back from dinner the ciphering contingent had daubed one another. Three or four boys holding and the girls painted. Finally, a fight ensued and nineteen young men and ladies were arraigned before the teacher, with the only alternative, said the rules, "take a whipping or be expelled from school." They all nno animo plead guilty and agreed to abide by the rules. The boys sawed wood and waited their time. It was a custom for the pupils to ask a holiday and the teacher had to give it, treat, or be ducked in a mud hole. This, the teachers would not do if there was any way to evade it. Ducking was the last act of his life; however, occassionally it had to be done to dignify the profession, for when once baptised in a mudhole, he invariably perserves in gifts and holidays. The time grew on apace nigh and the plan and specifications were made ready and the little boys posted. On Tuesday, by chance one of the little boys learned the school would be out on Thursday instead of Friday. This information was communicated and Wednesday morning bright and early every little boy and a few large ones were at the school room and barricaded the door and stood inside to keep Prof. Allen out. He wasn't expecting it until Thursday or Friday. He went and unlocked the door, but couldn't open it. The boys had left a window on purpose and through it got in and barricaded the door with benches. Prof Allen tried for some time to get the boys to open the door, but they knew their rights and kept him out until "after books" the time to take in, then the door was opened and the professor and the boys had a race; and now had come the opportunity for which the young men had waited since the alternative "take a whipping or be expelled." Whether law or custom, a teacher had to teach his full time to get his pay, and when he was in the school room

we dared not to molest him, but if we could barricade the door and keep him out without injury or personal harm, we had a perfect right to so to get a holiday, make him treat or duck. Charlie Gibbs and one or two others were pert on foot and the professor didn't get far before he was in the arms of as many boys as could get to him and on the broad road that leads the unrepenting and rebellious teacher to the confines of hogdom. He threatened, kicked and pleaded, but it was no use, and he went with the sweet, consoling and inspiring words—"From God all Blessings flow"—choirosters, "the daub maids." He was prepared for the ordinance one holding his head, two hold of each hand and foot and one standing on top to prevent him from floating. Then the ceremony commenced—"We duck you thou favored child of misfortune, on the confession of thy confutation in a dishonorable and ill assumed liberality as a tutor in the name of custom, tradition and practice a—Before the—was finished, "I'll treat, I'll treat let me up." And he was as good as his word. We had as much candy, raisins, apples and nuts as we could all eat, and that day was given us as a holiday. That was a big and happy time as a boy has ever had. I wish I could be a boy again and live the day over. In 1859, I met Prof. Allen in Homer, Texas for the last time.

1844.—Was a presidential election year. Father lived on the hill north of town in the Davis E. Grisham house. Pa was a Polk man and brother Lee and I were Polk boys and on the day before the speaking and raising of the Polk flag, and liberty pole, we dyed us a dozen or more flags with poke berries and painted the flagstaff with them too, and had the front yard fence decorated. Whenever a Polk man came along and saw our flags he would raise a yell, wave his hat and hollow "hurrah for Polk and Dallas." The Polk men had their horses decked with poke berries while the Clay men wore coon skin caps with coon tails hanging down their backs. Whichever party raised a flag first the other side would raise one higher, mattered not the cost. The Whigs put up a flag pole near the present Southwest corner of the courthouse, and the Democrats caught a coon, killed and buried it under their pole. They had a big time burying that coon. The Whigs then buried an o'possum and a poke stalk at the foot of their pole. By 1 or 2 o'clock everybody got hilarious and began gathering in great crowds and ere long you might begin to look for fun, for it was certainly to come. A few of us

boys used to watch and wait for the fighting to open and when we saw it was propitious, we'd climb up into some old china tree that stood in front of Dr. Gibbs and Colwell's drugstore and grocery. Men didn't use pistols, knives nor rocks in those days, and we felt perfectly safe with five or six fights going on and two or three hundred men gathered around. If there was a Morrow, Henson or Higginbotham present, and they generally were, you might safely bet your last dollar one or all of them would be in that fight.

1845.—Randolph had two members in the House and one in the senate.

Wyatt Heflin and Samuel T. Owens, Democrats were elected, Samuel T. Owens in serial on Tax Assessors.

Number Forty

RANDOLPH'S REPRESENTATIVES

1847-8.—William Wood and Calvin J. Ussery.

William Wood was an early settler coming to the county probably in 1833-4, and settled on Corn House creek near its mouth. He owned and settled the place where Mr. James A. Knight now lives on the old Wafer ferry road. He was a farmer and stock raiser, a plain old fashion homespun round about jeans coat, wool hat Democrat; with temperate habits, an honest and upright life; unimpeachable veracity; good sense and sound judgement. It was said: He wore a round about home made coat, jeans or home spun pants, wool hat, home tanned and made shoes to the legislature. He owned stock and cultivated a large farm and had good property both real and personal besides a large herd of cattle. If he was a member of any church I never heard of it. He was the father of R. J., W. H., A. C., Jack and Winston Wood; Mrs. Mary wife of G. G. Pate; Mrs. Sarah, wife of J. A. Knight and Mrs. Martha, wife of R. T. Smith. His daughters are all living, but his sons are all dead. Taking the family as a whole just as they arrived to manhood and womanhood, perhaps not another could be found with more or brighter promise for their future. Their paternal tutorage was faultless, with perhaps, one exception, Christianity.

Calvin J. Ussery, of Bacon Level, a potter, 32 years of age, Baptist and Whig was elected. He was said to be the best still hunting campaigner in the county. His education was very poor and limited although he was extraordinarily successful in his business and creditable as an energetic hard worker and a successful legislator. He had plenty of nature's wit and mother's will. He could not make a stump speech but was a good reasoner, good talker and a good judge of human nature, which made him a successful "campaign logger".

A log campaign meant to visit every house and see every voter in the county, this Calvin J. Ussery did and assured his success. Was sociable, clever, honest and fearless; extreme, fanatical and incorrigible. He was however, defeated in 1855 for County Commissioner. The Democrats, ran J. F. White, Hiram Barron, Wilson Falkner and Charles Foster, the Whigs ran C. J. Ussery, D. V. Crider and John McCollough, the Know Nothings ran Dr. R. Robertson, E. B. Smith and James Cole, Independent Z. Darden. Ussery's defeat was about one hundred majority. He was a strong secessionist in 1861, and was elected to the legislature with Col. James Aiken's and ex-sheriff A. W. Denman. After the war he voted with the Democrats, and in 1876, was again elected to the legislature. He had indomitable energy and self reliance and carried on a good mercantile, grist and saw mill and wool carding at High Shoals which accumulated to him a good property. He was a zealous Missionary Baptist and his official acts were pure, clean and untarnished. He died leaving an honorable and cherished character, good works and noble deeds to live after him.

1849-50.—C. D. Hudson and R. S. Heflin.

Cicero D. Hudson lived in Bacon Level beat, a potter and afterwards studied and practiced law; a Democrat and Deacon in a Baptist church. During the latter part of the war, he openly avowed his sympathies with the Union cause and aligned himself with the Republicans. When Col. Hudson first began the practice of law he was the butt of the Bar, but that only stimulated him to more efficiency, for he soon stood head and shoulder above some of his critics. He was a close student, hard worker and faithful and wise counsellor. He was full of tricks and you had to watch and be careful or he would catch you napping, especially,

if he had a bad cause to defend. But for all that, he was reasonable and liberal and easily approached. If he professed friendship you could depend on him, for he would not go back on you. He was noble, generous tactable and when you once sounded him, you could but love and admire his fidelity and fealty. Unfortunately, with a heart full of christian charity, mercy and liberality, his intemperate habits gathered in clouds of dissipation and hid his good qualities from those that need light and cheer. "If out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," certainly out of a christian heart noble generous and charitable deeds abound. I am persuaded these many Christian traits—with a confession of faith and burial in Baptism—were none other than a foundation no other man can lay that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Though it may not seem to have been gold, silver or precious stones, it may have been "wood, hay or stubble and burn up and his works suffered loss, but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." "By grace through faith you are saved, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." God is able to save. It is through his goodness, mercy and love we are saved. Who knoweth the will and depth of God's love, mercy and power? If man can forgive wrongs, and who is it that don't, why not a loving merciful God? His transgressions were moral disobedience. Christ had redeemed him from a spiritual death.

R. S. Heflin, see Serial No. 36.

Number Forty-One

1851-2.—John Reaves and R. C. Pool.

Judge John Reaves. (See serials Clerk and County Judge.)

Robert C. Pool lived on High Pine Creek, south of Concord Church, in Roanoke beat, or near the line. He came to Randolph county when there was only a few families anywhere near. It must have been in 1831 or 32, from the best information gathered. He was 53 years of age when elected, a farmer, stock raiser and a Democrat. He was a brother of the late Wm. P. Pool, who lived on the Roanoke and Louina public road. Pole, Thad and Polk were three of his sons. Napoleon and Polk are living in Texas. Thasseus was a member of Capt. John F. Smith's company "I" 13th Alabama, volunteers and was killed June 27th,

1862, at Mechanicsville, Va., just about good daylight. The writer saw him sitting leaning his back against the bank of the road. It was said: "He was shot through the thigh and bled to death." Uncle Bob was one of the Trustees of Roanoke Academy incorporated by the legislature in 1844. He made plenty of everything and lived well; was a plain old-time farmer, full of life and activity. He died many years ago.

1853-4.—William P. Newell and John Goodin.

William P. Newell. (See Serial on sheriffs.)

John Goodin was a whig, farmer, land speculator and negro trader. He was 47 years of age when elected. He had no education, could neither read nor write, except his name, yet his callidity seemed boundless. With ready wit, tireless tongue and an inexhaustable fund of anecdotes, which he told in a fluent flexible and humorous style, without and vapidness; he higgled them out by the wholesale on all public occasions.

In 1849,—the democrats defeated him for the legislature, and again in 1851, but the last time by a small majority vote. When the full returns were in and the result known, on the night following the election, I heard Goodin tell father he was a "standing candidate," and would run again in 1853. "And," said he, "in every election thereafter until I am elected." In 1853, the Whigs ran Thomas F. Lundie, for the State Senate, John Goodin and R. G. Roberts for the Legislature. Neither Lundie nor Goodin could make a stump speech, but Uncle Roberts the bell maker and Methodist class leader, could talk and reason very well. Neither could Gay, democratic candidate for Senator, nor Newell nor Humphries, candidates for the Legislature, make a speech; but the democrats had Bob Heflin, whose voice was fluent, flexible and stentorious, with fascinating spontainety; Ex-Governor W. H. Smith and Judge John T. Heflin, who were all in the vigor of manhood. John Goodin dreaded Bob Heflin, for he was a fanatic on smutty yarns and anecdotes. He told one on Goodin in the campaign of 1851 that Goodin, with all his ready wit and chicanery, couldn't appease. It was like Banquo's ghost it wouldn't down.

Goodin had dark skin, black hair and eyes, and was one of the first pioneers of the county, being here before and at the

time of the Creek treaty in March, 1832. Land speculators, stock owners and herders, old bachelors and young sports, many absconding criminals and horse thieves, were the advance guard. Pony Clubs were organized, justifying their acts under the claim of protecting property owners; but, like all outlaw organizations which are ruled by self-interest, self-will and conquest, many wrongs were chargeable to its door, and it became so tyrannical, aggressive and unbearable, another organization was formed and Christized into existence, styling themselves "regulators." It, too, was a hotch potch of cow-thieves and land grabbers, whose main object and purpose was to keep honest bona fide settlers from coming in and taking up the choice reservation and other tracts of land. The above explanation will enable my readers to understand why Bob's anecdote trenched and touched so closely on Goodin's past life and at the same time, made it impossible to be treated with silence or rebutted by answering. (It is not wished to convey the idea that Goodin was a bad man, or worse than others). Bob Heflin said: "One day as Goodin was riding along two Indians met him in the road, and one of them recognized him as one of the Pony Club, who had recently whipped one of their clan, and they said to him, "Light, you are one of the Pony Club that whipped one of our clan and we are a-going to whip you." Goodin protested his innocence and denied being in any way connected or sympathizing with the Club. "But," said the Indian, "A itsee hatkee", (all white men whip Indians). Goodin realizing that a charge so broad as to embrace "all white men" left him only one plea that could touch the sympathy of an Indian's heart. He thought quick and fast. It was his only alternative. It seemed feasible and he took courage and said: "K'ok shi (good) dakoe (friends or comrades) ma (why) luk i a (this) te-k win-te (is unexpected) hom (to me) yat-ton-ne (today). Hom (my) tsita (mother) ton (is thy) an (own) shi-i-nan (flesh) kiah-kwin (and blood). Ha (I) tanka (am) hatkee tsau na (the little man or son of) seme-hechee (hid it away) waukau t sauna (little woman or daughter of) tuston nogee (brave warrior) harno-o-na-wi-la-po-na (holder of the paths) ton (of thy) na dowe si (enemy) wompi (white) hatkee (man) "U-u-g-h", said the Indian, and at the same time run his hand down Goodin's back and, pulling it out, said, "No Indian here—Negro, by G-d."

This was a stunner and Goodin felt it keenly, but he was the last man to succumb or be driven from his ambituous desire

to go to the legislature. His acute cunning and ready wit soon decided him that strategy was the better part of valor, and he made his preparations for the campaign of 1853. The campaign opened at Chulafinnee; the writer was present. The Democrats had built a brush arbor in the grove west from the town, and preparations were made for a big crowd. Goodin had a big crowd around listening to his anecdotes an hour before speaking was to commence. When the time came the announcement was made and, as Judge John T. Heflin took the stand to speak, Goodin called out in a loud voice, "All who want Goodin whiskey follow me," and about nine-tenths of the crowd followed Goodin more than a hundred yards away to a wagon with a keg of good corn whiskey. They were all placed in line and the whiskey dealt out in a small tin cup. He managed to keep them, too. I don't think more than thirty or forty heard the speaking. He had arrangements made for each beat. Sometimes it would be a barrel of cider or a wagon load of ginger cakes. He played his hand well and spiked the enemy's big guns. He was elected, defeating Elijah Humphries eleven votes. I heard T. L. Pittman saying: "We were confident of Humphries' election on Saturday before. That six votes by the Stephen's at Delta, who were Goodin men, had been as they (democrats) thought, assured for Humphries. "But" said he, "John Goodin had heard or suspicioned we had been working on them, and, I have learned, went Sunday night to see them and secured their support; for he knew as well as we did if he lost those six votes he was defeated."

Goodin was happy and so also his friends on learning he was elected. He was a red-hot secessionist during the war. After Bell's defeat for President the Whig party died.

He went to Texas after the war and bought him a home and while moving his family he took sick and died on the road.

Number Forty-Two

1855.—W. H. Smith and R. J. Wood.

Ex-Gov. William H. Smith was a lawyer, about 30 years of age; a Democrat, and lived at Wedowee. He was re-elected in 1857. In 1866 he was Judge of the Circuit Court. In 1868 he was elected Governor of Alabama. In 1870 he was a candidate for

re-election as Governor and was defeated by Robert Lindsay, Democrat. Before the war, he was a Douglas Democrat, and I believe, and elector on the Douglas ticket for President. When the election was held for secession or co-operation, he voted for the latter. In the winter of 1862 he and Hon. R. S. Heflin made speeches in the court house at Wedowee criticising the Confederate States administration at Richmond, Va., which were said to be treasonable by Judge T. L. Pittman and others, who, it is supposed, so notified the authorities at Montgomery; for in a few days thereafter, Major Vandiver, of Montgomery, with a company of cavalry came to Wedowee to arrest them. Gov. Smith was at that time at Rockdale, seven miles north of Wedowee, and learned his arrest had been ordered and a company of soldiers were at Wedowee. Fortunately for him he was not at Wedowee when Major Vandiver arrived. When the State and Confederate governments ordered free speech suppressed at the instance of a cowardly political partisan, the cause for which brave men had taken up arms to protect and defend, was lost; and from that day hence, officers resigned and privates deserted the flag. This was the beginning of the end of liberty, and free speech in Alabama, and from that day on justice was outraged, liberty strangled and no mercy shown, and the Confederacy's cause of repelling subjugation and defense of person and property was doomed.

He, of course, without any ceremony or delay, made haste to cross the "dead line". He remained there during the war as a private citizen, though his elder brother, David, was a Captain, and his younger brother Dallas, a Lieutenant in the First Alabama regiment U. S. army, which was composed almost entirely of his own door neighbors, friends and county men. Since that time, he has affiliated with the Republican party.

Gov. Smith, was a son of Jephtha V. Smith, and brother of David D., Robert T., Charles A., John O. D., James M., Andrew J. and Dallas Smith: Mrs. Dr. Daniel C. Harris, and Mrs. Avers. His father moved to the Talbert May Mills, afterwards owned by Green Harper, Brown and McPherson, and now known as the Rock Mills. He stayed there a year and then moved to Wedowee in 1836 or '37 and lived in a house not far from W. N. Clifton's present home place, west. He was appointed in 1837 or '38, as well as I now remember, one of the county "Building Commission"

to locate and direct the public buildings. About 1844 or '45 he moved to Rockdale and built a mill on Piney Woods creek, near Jephtha post office, which takes his name. His father was so pronounced a "Unionist" he had to leave home during the war to save his life and died during his exile in Mississippi.

The Smith's like the Heflins and Woods, have been prominently connected with the political and public administration of Randolph county almost since its organization to within a few years back. These three families usually directed and dictated the policy and conventions of the Democratic party, to which they all belonged up to 1860. They have been divided, somewhat, ever since until now there are but two of their leading men living, and in their senility their "shibboleth" hath departed. Ex-Gov. Smith was in his ninth or tenth year when his father moved there. Like other boys in his day and surroundings, who were in a new and wild country, did not have the advantage of a collegiate education. He is self made, and stands today as one of the safest barristers and most forcible and magnetic pleaders at the bar and before a jury in the State of Alabama. He has had three sons, all lawyers. His eldest, David D. who, in life, stood on the highest and last round of the ladder of professional fame, was stricken down in death; and, perhaps, the most promising young lawyer the State of Alabama has ever had the honor to claim. The writer knew him from infancy to manhood and though unlike any other boys, did not recognize the hidden jewel of professional fame until its bright and effulgent rays were treasured in the vaults of endless time. His father knowing by experience the value of good practical education took care to see his son had the advantages of an English education. He sent him to Chattanooga, Tenn., one or two years and then secured him a position in the Supreme Court contingent at Montgomery, where he remained, perhaps, for two years and in the meantime, had him under his own tutorage. From boyhood to manhood, the writer can't now call to mind or locate one instance in which David ever engaged in a game of marbles or ball, or took part in a dance or sociable. I don't say he did not, but if he did, I can't call it to memory. Yet he was pleasant, jovial and hilarious at all times. This may seem incredible, nevertheless it is true. *Sit tibi terra levis.* John Antony Winston is the second son of Governor Smith. He did not get the advantages nor preparation of a first-class school tutorage his brother David did, nor the benefit

of the Supreme Court hearings sine-qua non-an indispensable addition to a professional young man. However he had the best a country teacher could give and he has forged to the front until he has few superiors in formulating and preparation which secures almost invariably success in complicated suits. He is associated with his father at Birmingham. William H. Jr., is destined to make his mark of a high calling. He has every indication associated which mature years will develop into ripeness and perfection.

Governor Smith is now about 70 years old, with mental and physical force still active. He, nor either of his father's family, so far as I know, have ever made any pretention religiously. His habits and morals have always been temperate and conservative. He is sociable and pleasant in companionship; upright and honorable in dealing's; egotistical and self-reliant in opinions; faithful and true in friendship; aggressive and forcible in argument; inflexible, magnetic, magnificent and versatile in debate. There is no vanity or aristocratic show about him. He is plain, pleasant and easily approached by common country folk, of whom, he has always shared their confidence and support and defended their rights. Mrs. Smith was of poor, but honest and virtuous parentage. She was a Wortham, and a native born citizen of Randolph. She is one of the most pleasant, and amiable lady neighbors I have ever lived by, and a true and devoted Christian. They moved to Birmingham 12 or 15 years ago.

Richard J. Wood was a farmer, in his 31st year of age; a Democrat and lived in Louina beat. He was one of those plain, honest, temperate, country raised, country educated and country trained boys, raised in old farmer style of economy, who were usually bountifully fed and worked hard. Nature endowed him with several of her most rare and choice gifts and he husbanded them carefully all through life. He had fine thought, business tact, equanimity, energy, acumen and avidity. Perhaps, there never has been a man living in the county that had his peculiarities. His mind, thought, foresight, judgement, reason, comparison, designation, discernment and perception, will force, effort, energy, efficiency, and tanacity were associated in all his undertakings, which made success phenomenal. He established a tannery one mile north of Wedowee and run on a process by which leather could be tanned in 30 days. He made shoes and mail

bags for the Confederate Government, and bought during the time near one hundred bales of cotton and stored it in different localities for the want of protection, a large part of this cotton was burned by robbers and cut throats, but he sold what was left at 40 and 50 cents per pound at the close of the war. He then located and opened the Wood Copper Mines, for which, it was said, he was offered fifty thousand dollars. For the want of means to develop it, he sold four, out of ten shares at \$5,000 each and invested in machinery, after which he was forced into litigation and lost all.

Being brought up and taught to believe all men claiming respectability were honorable, honest and truthful and should be treated as such in dealings, politics and other associations, he entered public life with a conscience innocent and void of offense; integrity as pure as rectified gold and honor as spotless as snow. Deception had never entered his heart, wrong had never disturbed his sweet repose in sleep, believing, confiding and trusting implicitly in the integrity of man as the noblest handiwork of an Allwise God. Although thrice seduced by subtility as were Adam and Eve, his faith was predicated and rooted in paternal tutorage, that only through honesty and industry could success in life be attained. It is the innocent that are wronged, the honest that are swindled, the believer that is deceived. With these characteristics, I have traced Dick Wood (for that is what everybody called him) from youth to manhood, senility and death. Bearing these in mind, it can easily be seen why his success in business was like the incoming and outgoing tide. He believed honesty, honor, integrity, fidelity, liberality, industry and peace were the beneficiaries of perfection and a reward of righteousness in death. Whatever his sacrifice trials, troubles and suffering cost him to maintain them, no one can know. What reward God shall grant him, none can know now. For the Word sayeth; "He that lives under the law shall be condemned by the law." The rich young Ruler who had kept the law said: "What lacketh I yet?" By this question it seems he recognized something else was needed. While the writer has known of Dick Wood for fifty years, the last fifteen or twenty years he has not intimately associated with him and don't know whether he ever made any profession, religiously, or not, but he does know and can testify that Dick had every attribute of a child of God in his life's walk and dealings with men.

In 1861, he was one of the delegates elected to the convention that passed the ordinance of secession. Henry M. Gay, Richard J. Wood and George Forester were elected on the co-operation ticket. They stood almost alone in the convention and were finally prevailed on to vote for the ordinance. This, though he had voted for Douglass and opposed secession, destroyed his political promotion ever afterwards. After the war, he affiliated with the Republican party. He was appointed postmaster at Heflin during Harrison's administration. He married a lady near Franklin, Ga., and during her lifetime he lived happy, content and prosperous life. But after his second marriage, peace, contentment and prosperity took wings and soared on the chilly winds of adversity, hardship and discontent. His last days spent were with his first wife's relatives and friends, where his happiest hours were once enjoyed. And let us hope these latter days were happy and pleasant in simplicity, loneliness of thought and remembrances of a dutiful, affectionate and lovely companion, who then, somnolently awaited his coming. His noble, generous, manly personality so pleasantly associated with us in earthly ties of humanity, bade adieu, fare thee well, forever. July 25th, 1895, and now rest by the side of one he loved and cherished in life, mourned in absence and sleeps by in death.

Number Forty-Three

1857-8.—W. H. Smith, A. W. Denman and Isaac Weaver.

Hon. Abner W. Denman, (See Serial on Sheriffs.)

Rev. Isaac Weaver was a Missionary Baptist Minister of the Gospel aged 26, and lived in Louina beat. He was a zealous Democrat and highly respected by his neighbors and loved by his Church. His private and public life was spotless so far as the writer knew. He had three sons, Rev. G. F., O. B., and Henry Weaver, all of whom were good citizens and clever men. Rev. Isaac Weaver died during the war.

1859-60.—F. M. Ferrell, F. A. McMurray and Joshua Hightower.

Hon. F. M. Ferrell lived near Lineville now Clay county. He was a very prominent man and highly respected by his com-

munity. After the election of John Goodin, (Whig), the Democrats locally selected their candidates in order to strengthen their ranks, and as a matter of course nominated and elected some men they were ashamed of afterwards, but it had become traditional with the party and its success, and every beat had a good man it wanted honored. It was stimulating and exhilarating to the cross-road ambitious Statesman. The writer was living in Texas at this time and knows nothing derogatory to the official acts of the three representatives; he remembers no criticism.

Hon. Franklin A. McMurray lived near Louina, was a farmer 50 years of age, and a Democrat. He came to Randolph county just before or after the Indian war in 1836, in which he served as a soldier, and now draws a pension from the United States. He is a brother of F. M. McMurray, County Surveyor from 1849 to 1857. Uncle Frank is the father of F. M. McMurray, who married a Gay and grandfather of W. H. McMurray, merchant at Wedowee. He has always been an active, energetic farmer and has accumulated a good property. He was appointed by the Confederate Government as war tax assessor. He is a man of good sense, sound judgement and well informed; kind, generous and charitable; pleasant sociable and entertaining. He is still living at the old homestead, and is now in his 87th year, with remarkable tenacity, energy and agility, honored and respected by all, and votes the Populist ticket.

Joshua Hightower was a farmer, an extreme Democrat, an old settler, 45 years of age, lived in Jenkins beat. He was a brother of William Hightower, Randolph's first Sheriff. Mrs. Hightower was said to be an exceptionally good lady, and their son, William M., was a good, clever boy and a member of Co. K, 13th Alabama regiment, and still living. Hon. Joshua Hightower was a Breckenridge Democrat and voted for secession. He made up a company of Home Guards and was its Captain. He was arrogant, selfish and egotistical and said to be tyrannical and oppressive during the latter part of the war, persecuting men and women who differed with him politically, or in any way showed or expressed their sympathy for the Union cause. It was said, and from personal knowledge it is believed, that Captain Hightower was in command of the squad of men who were detailed by

Captain Robinson, commander of the post at Wedowee, to carry Bone Trent and Dock King to Talladega conscript camps, which they never reached nor were seen alive afterwards, but were said to have been found by Capt. E. B. Smith's men some time afterwards in a pit several feet deep, partially filled with water, at Gold Ridge gold mines. The next day following Captain Smith's find the whole community turned out to recover their bodies; but on reaching the pit, they found it had been filled during the previous night with logs and brush, which had evidently been done by the parties committing the crime. This, with other circumstances connected, intimidated those who were gathered there and they went home without any further effort, believing their own lives would be in jeopardy. It has been said also that he was one of the men who shot and killed Capt. E. B. Smith, at his home, in 1865. The writer was in Texas at the time, but was told this by a man unimpeachable, though dead now. It was also told the writer, but by whom it is not now remembered, that three of these men went to the Indian Territory, and the Indians split P's tongue, cut off L's ears and jobbed out H's eyes. Whether guilty or not as charged the writer does not know personally, but the circumstances point very strongly against him. In the first place, he left Wedowee with Trent and King as prisoners. Secondly, the pit was accessible for him to reach that night. Thirdly, Captain Smith's testimony would have been very strong against him. Fourthly, he left the country as soon as there appeared to be a probability of investigation. Fifthly, if guilty, he would naturally do something justifying the punishment said to have been inflicted by the Indians.

This was the last Democratic member elected to the Legislature from Randolph county until 1874.

1861-2.—Alabama had passed the ordinance of secession and seceded from the Union. C. J. Ussery, A. W. Denman and Capt. James Aiken were elected. All secessionists.

Captain Aiken was a lawyer, 31 years of age, but previously a pedagogue. He was associated with Ex-Gov. W. H. Smith, at Wedowee, in the practice of law, and when the war broke out he raised a company and was elected Captain. Dr. H. C. Ghent, Dr. Wiley M. Kemp, and Algernon Sidney Reaves were respectively elected lieutenants. (They are all living today). Captains

Aiken, E. B. Smith and M. D. Robinson and companies left on July 12th, 1861. Capt. John T. Smith left July 4th, and all belonged to the 13th Alabama regiment. Captain Aiken was promoted Colonel in the Spring of 1863, and went through the war, surrendering as commander of his regiment with Gen. R. E. Lee, April 9th, 1865. He was a brave and faithful soldier; an upright and honorable man; an humble, faithful and trusting Christian whose integrity, character and virtue were unimpeachable; modest, plain and every day the same pleasant, kind and courteous commander, without vanity, pride or self-conceit. And, although he votes the "organized" ticket, those who knew him have a higher estimate placed on his past life than to believe he would sacrifice it to accept an election by the Tom Jones process—the orthodox of "organized" Democracy. Colonel Aiken is in no sense an office seeker or hunter, although one of the brightest legal lights at the Alabama bar. He has held but one official position since the war—that of Circuit Judge of his district. Why it is that men of his known legal, mental and moral qualities are relegated to private life, and less meritorious ones promoted, can only be reconciled by the emergencies and necessities for party proscription, venality and corruption. Since the war, he married a most amiable and charming domestic lady who lived at Lineville. They have an interesting and promising family of children and live at Gadsden.

Number Forty-Four

1863.—Henry W. Armstrong, Milton D. Barron, Augustus A. West and David A. Perryman.

Henry W. Armstrong lived in Chulafinnee beat. He was a farmer, 44 years of age, anti-war Democrat but after the war a Republican. He was a good, substantial, well-to-do farmer, with fine mental and moral attributes; an active, energetic, progressive and aggressive politician. He was largely and well connected by men with influence and means. He is still living and resides in Clay county, not far from Delta, honored and loved and respected by his neighbors.

M. D. Barron lived below Louina, on Big Tallapoosa River. He was a farmer, 45 years of age, anti-war Democrat and a son of Rev. Hiram Barron. The writer had only a slight acquaint-

ance with him. He died during his term as a member of the Legislature.

Capt. A. A. West was, at the time of his election, a Captain in the 31st regiment; 27 years of age and a farmer. He made up a company and went out March 31, 1862. He had been a Douglass Democrat and opposed secession. After the conscription act and the political persecution began, his sympathies grew stronger for the Union, and after his election to the Legislature he resigned and came home, but from some cause failed to take his seat as a member. His brother Eph. was a Captain in the United States army and his entire family sympathized with the Union cause. He was a plain, honest and hard working farmer before the war; had no ambition or aspiration to seek or hold office. He moved to Kansas probably in 1871, where he has since lived, with the exception of five or six months spent at Wedowee with his son, R. T. West, during the Spring of 1895. He married a Miss Bornby, daughter of Mrs. Isaac Baker, now Mrs. Griffin, who still is living and went west with her son-in-law.

Gus was a neighbor boy, and had pride and ambition enough to let no one do more or better work at log-rollings, house raisings and corn-shuckings. Everybody liked him for his many noble qualities and when he visited his old home and old friends last year, it was one of the most pleasant greetings common to men of mature age. That happy boyhood friendship, confidence and attachment that grows stronger and closer, as had manhood grown older and wiser, took new life, new energy and full possession of its once undisputed territory, and the memory of blissful boyish congenial love permeated the sympathy and cemented the ties that had lain somnolently, though not dead, set aside though not discarded, supplanted though not disinherited, separated though not divorced for twenty-odd years. While we cannot be boys and play mates again, thank God we can enjoy in meditation and thoughts of remembrance those once happy and pleasant days over again. How good and pleasant it is to be permitted to banish trouble, trials and affliction with an hour of sweet meditation of those past happy moments. Oh, God, how merciful, kind and thoughtful thou hast been to allow a day, a year or a life-time to be lived in one short hour's time of meditation, that we might forget sorrow and sadness. Is not this a taste of heavenly life? Is it not a reward of Christian charity and hope

promised in the suffering, crucified, and resurrected Saviour? "God is love" and those attachments associated in childhood and boyhood are attributes of God. Separation, old age, poverty, affliction, persecution, trials, troubles, height nor depth can separate, annul, set aside, overcome nor supplant these sweet remembrances of the past. O, were it possible that we could live as in childhood our latter days. For of such is the kingdom of heaven and redemption of the lost.

David A. Perryman was elected to fill vacancy of West or Barron, I don't remember which, but he, too refused to qualify or take his seat. (See serial on Tax Assessor).

1865-6.—W. W. Dodson, J. L. Williams and W. E. Connelly.

Judge Wallace Washington Dodson. (See serial on Probate Judge).

Judge James L. Williams formerly lived at Louina but when elected, at Lineville. He was a Douglass Democrat and anti-war Union man. He merchandised at Lineville for several years subsequently and was elected Probate Judge of Clay county. He was of fine appearance and had the reputation of being very popular with the masses. His official acts were said to be highly creditable. He died several years ago.

W. E. Connelly. (See serial on Circuit Clerk).

The Legislature reduced Randolph's representation from three to two, and called a Constitutional Convention for 1867.

1867.—W. E. Connelly and J. L. Williams were elected.

1869-70.—The Legislature in 1867-8, cut off township 17 to Cleburne county, and range 9 to Clay. This reduced Randolph's members from 2 to 1, under the new Constitution.

Jack Wood was a farmer, in his 39th year, and lived in Louina beat. He was a Douglass Democrat and opposed secession and the war. He was the son of William Wood and married Miss Ann Anderson, daughter of Lewis Anderson. Ann's mother was a Glover, and sister to Mrs. Emily Hunter. I used to think,

when we went to school together, Ann was the prettiest girl I ever saw. There were others who thought so, too, if one is to judge by the beaux she had. Bob Smith, Jack Wood and others were smitten and besieged her hand and heart, but Jack proved to be the winner. He moved to Kansas about 1871 and is said to have died there several years since.

1871.—Dr. Joseph H. Davis, of Roanoke, was elected as a Democrat. George Forester, of Louina beat, a Republican was his opponent and given the certificate of election. Davis contested and was seated. Forester held the certificate on a technicality and only took his seat at the urgent, solicitation of his party. He however, like an honorable man, such as he is and always was, made no fight and the contest on his part went by default.

Dr. Davis was elected to the Constitutional Convention of 1867, as a Republican. He was exempted during the war, as a practicing physician, but was so pronounced a Unionist he had to leave "the home of the brave and the land of the free" (?) of Dixie in 1864. In 1868 he was a Seymore Democrat. He was a skillful physician, well informed, keen, shrewd and cunning politician. He was a high tempered, self-willed and egotistical, yet at the same time, kind, liberal and true to his friends. He had a tender, affectionate and sympathetic nature, especially towards the unfortunate and poor. He was a close and warm friend, a bitter and aggressive enemy. He was a member of the M. E. Church, South. He was superstitious and would not go close by a grave yard after night. He had a heart disease, and told the writer he expected to drop off suddenly, which he did, August 25th, 1878. While he differed with many of his neighbors politically and some time personally, yet they all honored and respected him and turned out enmasse to pay their last earthly respects to his remains. His second wife was a Miss Mary Gillespie, a modest, pleasant and refined lady; a dutiful wife and affectionate mother. Mrs. Davis now lives at La-Fayette, Ala., where the writer recently visited her at home and was delighted to find she retained a remarkable degree of her many former charms of beauty and vivacity. She showed the writer a life-size picture of Dr. J. H. Davis. It is a perfect life likeness, so much so you are almost constrained to greet it as if living.

Number Forty-Five

1872-3.—Hon. W. D. Lovvorn. (See serial No. 32.)

1874-5.—Hon. William D. Heaton lived in Saxon's beat. He was a farmer, democrat, Mason and Baptist. Several years previous he and brother merchandised at Gold Ridge. He was a very clever man and stood well in Shiloh Baptist Church, of which he was a member. His education was limited, but his energy, good judgement and business tact secured to him a good property. He was passionate, excitable and easily deceived and led astray, but when cool and deliberate would correct mistakes and right wrongs. His selection as a candidate was on account of locality, the writer making the suggestion. He married a daughter of S. W. Hearn, known as Whit Hearn, was at that time, said to be, the wealthiest man in Randolph County. He visited Texas several years afterwards and on his return home was taken sick and died shortly after. Mrs. Heaton still lives on the old homestead.

1876-7.—Hon. C. J. Ussery. (See serial No. 40).

1878-9.—Hon. Jason J. Hearn lived in Rock Mills beat; a farmer, Polly Ann Democrat and a member of the Primitive Baptist Church. He was said to be a very clever neighbor, a good citizen and a worthy member of his church. He was scarcely known outside of his beat until defeated in the Polly Ann convention by A. C. Saxon in 1877 for Tax Assessor. He is still living.

1880-1.—Hon. Thomas E. Head lived in High Shoals beat. Was a farmer, democrat and about 50 years of age. Tom was a first rate, good and clever citizen and neighbor. His death was very sudden and thought to have been voluntarily and of his own free will. Was an old citizen and universally loved and respected for his quiet, peaceable and neighborly traits. It is one of those unaccountable mysteries which probably will never be known by the public.

1882-3.—Hon. F. P. Randall, a citizen of Rock Mills, and at the time superintendent of the Wehadkee Manufacturing Company, was elected. Captain Randall's business qualities, keen per-

ception, fine intelligence christian character, temperate habits and good morals demanded his selection and election as a necessity for relief from railroad bond indebtedness. Many of his personal and political opponents voted for him on account of his availability and confidence in his integrity and interest in the public good. He was known to be conservative energetic and zealous in his private business, and though he had time and again refused to accept a nomination, backed by strong solicitation, he was prevailed on to run and was elected, but he failed to appreciate the confidence universally bestowed and reposed and left his post and official duties to attend his private matters at home. This showed, on his part, he had no aspirations or ambition for office or official duties, while on the part of the people disappointment and loss of confidence. While Captain Randall is a zealous partisan politically, office is repugnant to his sensibilities and he seems to loath the thought of its charm and honors. Why, I don't know, for he is public spirited and a strong advocate for good government and wholesome laws. He came from Kentucky to this county since the war and for many years has been the Superintendent or President of the Wehadkee Cotton Mills. He has been recognized as the most zealous and active leading democrat in Rock Mills beat for years; and, today, is the most prominent Administration democrat in the county. I have been told that he is a Clark man. If there is in existence today such a thing as an organized democratic party, to be consistent, it must be that party which recognizes the present State and National Administration. The Johnson men maybe hold to the traditional democratic principles of free coinage of gold and silver, but they are not in the true sense of party parlance democrats, but seceders. And like the Jeffersonians and Populists will patch up a compromise and vote once more together and then organize a new party. They have two precedents, (and a democrat will sell his soul for precedent) the Douglas and Breckenridge, Kolb, and Jones. The writer is not a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but mark his prediction—if Johnson is nominated, A. T. Goodwyn will be the next governor of Alabama, but if Clark is nominated whether elected or not he will be the governor of Alabama for he will certainly get the certificate and there is no law by which his seat can be contested. "A wayfaring man though a fool need not err therein". It is as plain as open and shut that 90 per cent of the administration democrats will never vote for a free silverite. Turn your eye to the National Administration at Washington and

then the administration democrats in the Kentucky General Assembly, that ought to convince any sane mind the silverites are looked upon as Populists, the only difference is as to whether the vote shall be first class or counted.

1884-5.—Hon. C. B. Taylor, of Rock Mills, was a democrat, Primitive Baptist minister and a practicing physician. He was egotistical, self willed and pharisaical. Was said to be neighborly, friendly and sociable. A prominent minister and a fluent speaker, but being a Mason his usefulness in the pastorate was not extensively sought or desired by the brotherhood. He died years ago.

1886-7.—Hon. Enoch Carter. (See serial on County Commissioners.)

1888-9.—Hon. Samuel Henderson of Roanoke, was a young lawyer, member of Roanoke Baptist Church and a democrat. He came from Talladega several years ago, and was the son of Rev. Samuel Henderson, who was known and prominent, associated with the leading Baptist ministers throughout the South. Judge John Henderson honored by Randolphians as Circuit Judge was his uncle. Sam is a fine lawyer and a fluent speaker. Unfortunately for Sam, whose physical, mental and christian sensibilities are fully developed, there is a serious and questionable characteristic connected with his daily life that degrades and demoralizes his would be championship; i. e., he is an old "bach". The fact is, he is an arrant coward through fear and intimidation of a broom stick in the hands of laughing, sparkling eyes, ruby cherry cheeks, coquetish smiling face, birnanous caressing arms of maiden, mine or portly buxom widowhood. Let me implore you, Sammy, ere 1896 shall chronicle the golden moments and fleeting days of leap year and pass into endless time, to shave off that buttermilk strainer, iron out those crab apple wrinkles, rope that stage breath and imprison your batchelor timidity in the heart affectionate of wifedom.

1890-1.—Hon. Wilson L. Ayers. (See serial on Sheriffs.)

1892-3.—Hon H. H. Whitten, lived in Roanoke beat, is a farmer, Populist and allianceman, good morals and temperate habits, an active, energetic worker and a successful farmer. He

came to the county ten or fifteen years ago and the writer only knows of him since the election. He supported and maintained the principals of the Populist party which was in the minority and unable to pass any acts of reform or repeal class or unjust laws, as were desired by the masses of the people.

1894-5.—Hon. S. E. A. Reaves. (See serial on Probate Judges.)

Number Forty-Six

RANDOLPH'S REPRESENTATIVES STATE SECESSION CONVENTION

1861.—H. M. Gay, R. J. Wood and G. Forester.

Hon. Henry M. Gay. (See serial No. 36.)

Hon. Richard J. Wood. (See serial No. 42.)

Hon. George Forester lived north of Louina on Big Tallapoosa river. He was a farmer, 41 years of age, and Co-operationist, previously a Douglas Democrat. Rev. Charles P. Cission, of Jenkin's beat, and Dr. W. E. White, of Roanoke, were Forester's and Wood's competitors. Gay's opponent has slipped me. However, a young lawyer, of Wedowee, by the name of J. J. Hill, canvassed the county for secession, and John O. D. Smith, now of Opelika, but then a tender bud of law at Wedowee, canvassed for cooperation. The campaign was opened by Hill at Denston's Court ground. John Goodin, Dunston and some others swore Smith should not speak, but when assured free speech would be had, if it took a secession vote to get it, they changed their tactics. The crowd seemed to be almost unanimously with them up to this time, but Smith, with his comrade by his side, soon won the friendship of two thirds of the crowd. Hill and Goodin looked disappointed and mortified and, no doubt, felt it. They tried to play the intimidating act at Chulafinnee, but it was no go. Smith told them if they did not want to "co-operate" the next best thing they could do was to practice what they preached, and "secede". The boys caught on and gave Smith a rousing boost, but Hill and company, cold comfort. George Forester was then and is now one of Randolph's best and purest men. He loved his State and people and for them he was willing to sacrifice personal and private opinions for their public good.

When he, Wood and Gay took their seats in the Convention, at Montgomery, they were greeted as brothers not only by former Democratic comrades but Whigs also. Party lines were obliterated; State rights, Southern valor and self-government called on their patriotism and for unity. Division in vote would be like cowardice of soldiers in front of the enemy. It would be treason to desert the State and give support and encouragement to the enemy. Co-operation must come through State sisterhood and unity of interest. This was impossible or probable without unity, power and respectability. Both Whigs and Democrats had united their strength at the ballot box and sent almost a solid delegation in favor of seceding. A few cooperationists could accomplish nothing good for their cause, but bring division and ridicule on themselves, and destroy the confidence and unity of the body. These and many other stronger and pointed reasons were brought to bear on them to vote for the ordinance of secession which they finally did. He was the Republican candidate for the Legislature in 1871, and was given the certificate of election, but believing Dr. J. H. Davis, had been fairly elected and the certificate given him through a technicality caused by throwing out Burson's beat, the returns not being properly certified too, he refused to take his certificate or seat until persuaded to do so by his personal friends, when Davis contested, he did not defend it, but let it go by default. He has always stood well with the people and but few public men have had a stronger hold on the confidence of their neighbors than he. He is now in his 76th year of age enjoying life, quiet and happiness surrounded by relatives and friends.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

1865.—R. T. Smith, see serial on Circuit Court Clerk.

1867.—Dr. J. H. Davis, see serial No. 45.

1875.—Capt. Benj. F. Weathers, Roanoke, was nominated May 28th, 1875, by the Democrats of Randolph and elected in August following. He was 37-years of age and had been raised on a farm though at the time engaged in merchandising. He was the oldest son of I. T. and Sarah Weathers and brother of our present Probate Judge A. J. Weathers. He was a candidate for Probate Judge in 1877, and defeated in the convention by James C. Sherman, he bolted and announced himself an independent candidate, but before the election withdrew and supported Judge S. E. A. Reaves and accepted a clerkship. In 1895 he took sides

with the wet ticket in Roanoke's city election which it is claimed, makes his promotion questionable and improbable in the near future. Captain Weathers, volunteered in Capt. Boss White's company and was promoted from Lieutenant to a Captain and was a brave and gallant soldier on the field.

He is one of that class of men known by their open handed liberality who makes his visitors pleasant while showing his hospitality and companionship. He is now cashier of Roanoke Bank and holds the confidence with whom he is associated. He married a Miss Jennie Mickle, daughter of William and Mary Mickle, among the first and best people of the county, Jennie was one of the most bewitching, facinating, and charming young ladies in all lower Randolph and is as munificent and charitable as the Captain, full of life, energy and vivacity, a zealous member of the M. E. Church, South, a pleasant and sociable companion and a most excellent and kind neighbor.

This closes the historical sketches of the county officers of Randolph County from January 1st, 1833, to January 1st, 1896. There are some typographical and other corrections which I wish to make, but can't do so until I have the opportunity to visit Wedowee.

It is more than probable some one in person or through a friend feels an unjust construction has been placed upon them and would, if afforded an opportunity, furnish the proper correction. This writer would take as a favor, as he intends sometime in the future to publish it in book form.

It is the purpose of the writer to resume these serials in August or September, the subjects of which will be the Captains and other Confederate soldiers; Editors and Publishers of Randolph's Newspapers; the most noted characters of the County before the war—J. W. Bradshaw, Benj. Bolt, Eph. Higginbotham, the Hensons, Marrows, Aggie Rose, Merchants and Lawyers; Cattamounts and Todd's negroes; the Talladega mad boy and his conviction; Jim Snively Shoal diving; a sack of salt; A. B. C. Guason, the Toiler; Domino (Jesse Haywood) and negro dogs; Tom Hearn and old Napper; the Hotel keeper and wild hog, etc. etc. It might be possible, you know that my host of friends might take up the idea to run and elect me to some office, and in order to remove all encumbrances and have an open way before me to accept. I have cancelled all contracts until after the election and am now engaged in fishing for luck.



HON. E. G. RICHARDS

HON. E. G. RICHARDS

HON. EVAN GOODWIN RICHARDS, author of a series of articles on Chambers County, published in the LaFayette Sun, during the year 1890, was a minister and lawyer. He was born August 26, 1807, at Northampton County, N. C., and died December 31, 1893, his last residence being LaFayette. His father was a native of Wales, who settled in North Carolina in 1815, and removed to Madison County, Alabama. He went to the country schools of that County in 1830, and was licensed by the Methodist Church to preach. He located at LaFayette, that same year and was one of the chief promoters of the Opelika, Oxford and Guntersville Railroad, being its first President. He was also among the first to advocate the building of cotton factories in the South after the War Between the States. He was a Democrat and supported Stephen A. Douglas for the United States Presidency in 1860. Mr. Richards married Sarah Dickens Clark Webb, of Perry County, in 1835, and they were the parents of a large family of children.

REMINISCENSES OF THE EARLY DAYS IN CHAMBERS COUNTY

By E. G. Richards

I

That portion of East Alabama formerly occupied by the Creek tribe of Indians was ceded by them to the United States by treaty in the Spring of the year 1832. The government proceeded without delay, after making said treaty, to have the territory surveyed into sections preparatory to sale and settlement. By the terms of the treaty the head of each Indian family was entitled to a reservation of 320 acres of land and the chiefs of tribes to 640 acres. A large portion of the best lands were taken by the Indian reservations, as they were generally living on the water courses and entitled to be located on the lands they were then occupying. Most of these reservations were sold by the Indians to land speculators before the unlocated lands were offered for sale or made subject to entry.

At the session of the Legislature of the State of Alabama in 1832-3, said territory was divided into counties and that portion known as Chambers county was so named in honor of Dr. Henry Chambers, a distinguished citizen of North Alabama, who was one of the first Senators elected to the United States Senate from the State of Alabama after the admission of this State into the Union, but who died before or very soon after taking his seat.

At the session of the Legislature which divided said territory into counties, the Hon. James Thompson, of Jefferson county, Ala., was elected Judge of the county court for Chambers county. Shortly after the adjournment of that session of the Legislature, Judge Thompson came to Chambers county for the purpose of organizing the county by the election of county officers. After reaching the county and informing himself of the location of the few white people then living in the county, he advertised and held an election for county officers. That election was held at the house of James Taylor, on the 4th day of March, 1833. That election was held on lands owned by Hon. M. V. Maley, about seven miles north-east of where LaFayette has

since then been built. That place was several miles from the center of the county, but at that time it was near the center of population. The white settlers in the county at that time were located mostly in the northern and eastern portions of the county, in such neighborhoods as where there were but few Indians. The white inhabitants were mostly from the State of Georgia, and were intruders on Indian territory.

At the election mentioned Nathaniel H. Greer was elected Sheriff; William H. House, Clerk of the Circuit Court; Joseph J. Williams, Clerk of the County Court; Booker Lawson, John Wood, William Fannin and John A. Hurst were elected Commissioners of Revenue and Roads, as our Commissioners were then called. These officers were well chosen for the respective offices for which each was elected. Nathaniel Greer served as Sheriff only about one year, when he resigned and was elected to the Legislature and had the honor of being the first Sheriff and also the first representative in the Legislature that Chambers county ever had. Mr. Greer was a farmer of fair ability, and after serving one term in the Legislature he removed to the State of Texas. W. H. House and J. W. Williams each served out their full terms of office, and Williams was re-elected to a second term but House was defeated by John C. Towles, who, after serving one term, was defeated in his candidacy for re-election by Thomas J. Harrell. These gentlemen all made good officers and the changes were not always caused by a want of competency in the defeated candidate, but was caused by strife for party ascendancy. The most of the first officers elected in Chambers county discharged their duties fully as well as those that have been elected in later years.

II

A short time before the organization of Chambers county, a man by the name of Chapman, who owned a ferry on the Coosa river, near old Ft. Williams, blazed out a road from his ferry across the Creek Nation to West Point, Ga. That road or trail as it was called crossed the Tallapoosa river at what is now known as Chisholm's Ferry, but which was then owned by a half breed Indian by the name of Hutton, who at that time kept a ferry at that place. Hutton was well off in property for an Indian; he spoke the English language fluently, was courteous

to the white people, many of whom were passing through the country inspecting the lands with the view of selecting homes when the lands should be brought into market. Many of these travelers, following Chapman's trail, crossed the river at his ferry and not a few found entertainment at his house, as they had to put up with Indian fare or camp out. Chapman's trail passed through Chambers county about $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles north of where the town of LaFayette has since been built, near where it crossed a small branch. There was a bald spot of earth on which there was neither bush nor a bunch of grass to be found. That bald spot was in the shape of a large animal. There was the shape of the head as well as the legs and body, and had the appearance as though some animal had wallowed there, and it being so much larger than an ox could have made, some one suggested that a Buffalo must have wallowed there. From that time to the present that place has been known as Buffalo Wallow. W. H. H. Hunter now owns the place.

Before the election of County officers on the 4th of March, 1833, Capt. Baxter Taylor had settled on Chapman's trail, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of where LaFayette is now situated, on the lands now owned by Mr. A. Hammonds.

On the first Monday in April, 1833, Judge Thompson and Commissioners Fannin Lawson, Wood and Hurst met at Capt. Taylor's (that place having been selected as a temporary place of holding court until a permanent county site should be selected) and organized and held the first Commissioners court ever held in Chambers county. At that court they elected John Edge, Esq., to take the census of Chambers county, that being the year the State census had to be taken. The court also elected Elisha Ray, County Auctioneer; Capt. Baxter Taylor, County Treasurer; John Bean, Coroner, and William McDonald, County Surveyor. All of these officers were at that time elected by the judge and Commissioners.

The first Circuit Court ever held for Chambers County was held at this same place on the 20th of April, 1833. On the evening before said court was held, two strangers stopped at the hotel in West Point, Ga., for the night. On the next morning upon their making enquiries for the way to reach the place for holding court in the new county of Chambers, Alabama, they were

found to be the Hon. John W. Paul and the Hon. W. D. Pickett, Judge and Solicitor for the Sixth Judicial Circuit in the State of Alabama, which Circuit had been formed at the late session of the Legislature, which embraced Chambers county. Both of these gentlemen resided in Montgomery, Alabama. They had organized courts in Macon and Russell counties and came from Columbus, Ga., to West Point, on the Georgia side of the Chattahoochee river, as there were then but few white people living on the Alabama side of the Chattahoochee above Columbus, Ga. Col. C. R. Pearson, Dr. C. C. Forbes and this writer volunteered our services as an escort, and taking Chapman's trail piloted those gentlemen to the place of holding court. On our arrival at the court ground we found all the county officers present; also a very large portion of the white settlers in the county had come out to see and make the acquaintance of their new Judge and solicitor, who were entire strangers to settlers in the county. The Sheriff had summoned a grand jury, who were present; and in due time court was called, Judge Paul taking a seat prepared for him under the shade of a large Oak in Capt. Taylor's yard, the Grand Jury were duly empaneled, sworn and charged as required by law. They retired to the shade of another tree a short distance from the court, examined some witnesses who appeared before them and after due deliberation, returned two or three true bills into court for minor offenses, after which court adjourned for the term. As that was the first court held in the county there were no cases for trial and no use for a petit jury. There were no hotels at which a stranger could get accommodations, but Capt. Taylor had anticipated the wants of visitors and had prepared plenty of the best the country could then afford, so that every one of us who so desired, got a square meal at a moderate price. It was indeed a pleasant time to the most of us, and especially to the writer.

The meeting of the State and county officers, who up to that time, were entire strangers to each other; the many settlers in the county, strangers one to the other, forming each other's acquaintance, all of whom had settled in an Indian country, were glad to make the acquaintance of each other as they did not know how soon each might need the other's protection.

The novelty of seeing a circuit court held under the shade of a tree while the best order prevailed, together with the entire

surroundings, made it an exceedingly pleasant occasion. Later in the evening the people dispersed, going to their respective homes, leaving the Judge and Solicitor to enjoy the hospitality of Capt. Taylor.

III

At the election held for the organization of Chambers county on the 4th of March, 1833, in addition to the county officers heretofore named, there were also elected three persons called Court House Commissioners, whose duty it was, under a special act of the Legislature, to select a suitable place for a permanent county site, and to superintend the erection of suitable public buildings for said county. The persons elected to that position were the Hon. Thomas C. Russell, James Taylor and Baxter Taylor. The Messrs. Taylor were good and clever citizens but men of very limited qualifications for transacting public business. But Judge Russell proved himself to be a man above the ordinary in good sound judgement and unyielding integrity in the faithful discharge of the trust committed to him.

When said commissioners met to select a permanent county site, Capt. B. Taylor insisted that his premises, where the first court was held, was the proper place for the permanent county site, while John Edge, Esq., who had settled at Buffalo Wallow, insisted on his premises being the most suitable place. But Judge Russell said to his colleagues, as public officers, it was their duty to look to the future interest of the country, and not to be influenced by personal interest, in the discharge of their duties. He therefore proposed they should take a map of the county, which they had, and go to the center of the county, and the nearest eligible place to the center for such county site should be selected by them. That they did, and after careful examination of the county for several miles around, they selected the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 13, in T. 22, of Range 26, as the place for the permanent county site for Chambers county. The place selected was in the natural forest. Not even an Indian trail passed through the land selected, nor was there an Indian settlement in less than three miles of the place. But the place selected was within two miles of the center of the county, and as such its selection gave universal satisfaction. There was at that time an act of Congress authorizing the entry of 160 acres of land for county purposes in

newly acquired territory, though the lands generally were not subject to entry under said act. Said commissioners entered the above described tract of land, and at an early day, directed the county Surveyor, Mr. Wm. McDonald, to lay off said tract of land into town lots, first laying off a public square in which to erect a court house. This being done, a public sale of lots was had on the premises, on the 23rd of October, 1833. That sale was largely attended and lots sold for good prices. I cannot give the aggregate amount of this sale but it was sufficient to pay for the building of both the court house and jail for this county, without taxing the people one dollar for the erection of public buildings for Chambers county. A short time after said sale of lots the Commissioners contracted with Messrs. Mitchell and Cameron, of LaGrange, Ga., to erect a court house and jail for said county. Said contractors performed their work satisfactorily, and as an evidence that they did good and faithful work, the buildings erected by them 55 years ago are still in use by the people for whom they were built, with the prospect of their lasting for many more years more. The place selected for the public square in which the court house is erected is on the ridge which divides the waters that flow into the Chattahoochee from those that flow into the Tallapoosa river, and though the public square is comparatively level; yet it is sufficiently oval to cause the water that runs off on the west side of the court house to run into the Tallapoosa river, while that which runs off on the east side flows into the Chattahoochee river.

Soon after the selection of the permanent county site, said commissioners had a temporary courthouse built, which was built on the spot where the Probate and Clerk's offices now stands. That house was about 20 feet square, was built of split pine logs and hewn so as to make them passably smooth. That house, for at least two years, and until the new court house was built, answered as a place for holding all courts, as well as a church for all denominations of Christians who desired to use it as such.

I would not do the Hon. T. C. Russell justice to pass him without giving him a further notice in these sketches. For to him is due the credit of making the selection for the county site, so important and which gave such general satisfaction that there was not a vote of the people called for, to ratify the selection made, nor did I ever hear a murmur of dissatisfaction. His

oversight in the work of erecting the public buildings, deserve the commendation of all good citizens, and is a worthy example for those who may hereafter be intrusted with like responsibilities.

The office of Sheriff having become vacant by the resignation of N. H. Greer, Elijah Holtzclaw, by executive appointment, filled the office until the next August election, when Willis Kellam, Esq., was elected Sheriff for a full term, after a heated contest, over Wm. George, only about thirty votes. Mr. Kellam served out his full term and made an excellent Sheriff.

The Hon. Leroy McCoy, who lived near Fredonia, was elected the next year to represent Chambers county in the Legislature and was the second representative the county ever had. The Hon. J. C. Keener, of Barbour, was our first Senator—Barbour, Russell and Chambers counties forming our Senatorial District at that time.

IV

I find that I made a mistake in my last article in reference to the election of Sheriff. Thomas Taylor was the second Sheriff elected by the people of Chambers county. He defeated Col. Charles McLemore for that office. Mr. Taylor held a full term and then Mr. Kellam was elected over Mr. George.

The first marriage that was ever celebrated between white persons in Chambers county, Ala., was that of Wiley Thaxton, of Georgia, and Miss Amanda F. Holifield, of Chambers county, on the 25th day of April, 1833, the Rev. John A. Hurst, officiating. As I had the honor of being one of the guests, I will give a history of the affair, as things were in many respects different then from what they are now. Mr. Holifield, the father of the bride, had moved from Georgia and settled in Chambers county, then inhabited by the Creek Indians, about the first of the year, 1833. He settled on the north side of the Oseliga creek, about five or six miles northwest from West Point, Ga., and near the place known as Wickerville, which is about three miles south of what is now Fredonia—then called Hurst's Store. No white family lived nearer than about two miles of the Holifields. Mr. Thaxton, who was engaged to Miss Holifield, came over to consummate

their engagement and the 25th of April was agreed on as the day of marriage, and arrangements made accordingly. Mr. Thaxton went to town and procured his marriage license. At that time there were but two persons in the county authorized to celebrate the rites of matrimony. They were the Hon. James Thompson, Judge of the County Court, and the Rev. John A. Hurst. Mr. Thaxton was informed that Judge Thompson was absent on a visit to his old home, in Jefferson county, Ala., and would not return for a week or more. He at once went for Mr. Hust, whom he also found to be absent on a business trip to Columbus, Ga. But he was informed by Mrs. Hurst that she expected her husband to return on the evening of the 25th, and that she would inform him of the pressing call, and that he might rely on his being on hand at the proper time. On this assurance Mr. Thaxton came to West Point and invited Mr. Beman H. Martin and this scribe, (both young and single men) to accompany him to Mr. Holifield's and witness the first marriage in Chambers county, Ala., which invitation was accepted, and in due time we three started for Mr. Holifield's. Taking an Indian trail, we reached there about sun down, where we found all in readiness for the marriage except the parson, who had not made his appearance or been heard from. Night came on and with it a light shower of rain. It was very dark. Things looked gloomy for a marriage; parties became despondent; nine O'clock came and no parson. The family despaired of Mr. Hurst's arrival and invited the few guests to eat supper and give up the hope of marriage until the next day, which was done. But a short time after we had eaten supper, some of us were out in the yard and looking northward saw a torch-light coming in the direction of the house. Excitement was aroused as to who it could be. As they drew near, it was discovered to be the Rev. John A. Hurst and his neighbor, George W. Browning. Hope revived, and as soon as the excitement of the moment was over the contracting parties appeared on the floor and were made one by Mr. Hurst repeating a most beautiful marriage ceremony. Thus the few of us who were there and who an hour before were filled with sadness and disappointment, were now filled with joy and gladness. Mr. Hurst explained that he did not reach home until dark that evening and both himself and horse were hungry and tired; that his wife told him of the message left for him by Mr. Thaxton and that parties were evidently in waiting; that he fed his horse while his wife prepared some refreshments for himself, and that

he sent at once for his neighbor, Mr. Browning, who lived a mile distant, to accompany him through the darkness of the night to Mr. Holifield's, and that as soon as Mr. Browning arrived they started, torch in hand, and following an Indian trail, made their way to Mr. Holifield's as early as circumstances would permit. After partaking of the wedding supper, Messrs. Hurst and Browning returned home that night about 11 O'clock. By that act Mr. Hurst established a reputation among the marrying class to the effect that he would do to depend on in case of an emergency. So ends the history of the first marriage in Chambers county, Alabama.

There were only three other marriages in Chambers county that year, (1833,) two of these to-wit: Hilliary H. Argo to Miss Dorcas Reeves, on the 2nd of October, and James Waller to Miss Susan H. McCoy on the 3rd of October, 1833. The marriage rites of both couples were celebrated by the Rev. J. A. Hurst. The third was celebrated by the writer on the 27th of December, 1833, who, since the date of the first marriage above stated, had moved from West Point, Ga., to what is now LaFayette, Alabama, and who had in the meantime been authorized to celebrate the rites of matrimony. The contracting parties at this marriage were Charles Crew, of Butts county, Ga., and Miss Hicksey M. Bean, a daughter of Mr. Walter Bean, who then resided near Hurst's Store (now Fredonia.) The writer was then a single man and this was his first effort in that line. I undertook it with a degree of trepidation, but having a couple of young and gay friends as candle holders, with book in hand, I was enabled to read the marriage ceremony, as found in the Methodist discipline, without a bobble, and on pronouncing the parties husband wife was flattered by a young man speaking out audibly, pronouncing the performance well done and engaging my services in his own case as soon as he could get the consent of his intended. This was the largest collection of young people that had assembled on a similar occasion up to that time, in the county. The supper was excellent and all who were present appeared to enjoy the occasion highly. It was indeed an enjoyable occasion. There was no aristocracy among us—all being new settlers in the county, we were on an equality. Our style was of the free and easy, and unrestrained, pleasantry ruled the hour. I have married many couples since; some in large assemblies and others in small, but none under more pleasant surroundings than on this occasion.

Among the early settlers in Chambers county there was a fair portion of them members of some religious denomination, principally Methodist and Baptist, with a few Presbyterians. At an early day each of these denominations, when they could collect a sufficient number of their order together, organized churches and built temporary houses as places of public worship, where the people were frequently preached to by preachers of various denominations traveling through the country, and looking for homes in the new territory.

The first church ever organized in the county of any order, was the Methodist church formed by this writer in the fall of 1833, near where the village of Fredonia is now situated. That church consisted of thirteen members, not one of which is now living. That was the beginning of the Methodist church at Fredonia. The Alabama Conference met that fall in Montgomery, Alabama. This writer made known to said Conference the destitute condition of this section of country, and said Conference sent two missionaries into this section. Their names were Squires and Finley. They traveled through the country, preached to the people wherever they could get a congregation, and organized churches wherever they could find members of this order. They founded churches at LaFayette, Fredonia, Standing Rock, Cusseta, Oakbowery and perhaps some others. Finley died in the early fall and was buried at Fredonia. Squires continued to labor until the end of the year, after which he was transferred to the Mississippi Conference. In 1835 the Conference sent P. F. Starns and G. W. Cotton in charge of the Methodist churches in the county. They labored faithfully and built up their various churches to some extent. Starnes, who was a single man, married a Miss Lane, daughter of the Rev. Henry Lane, of this county, in the fall of 1835, and afterwards removed from this county. Cotton died that fall at Conference in Mobile.

During the years 1834, and 1835, several Baptist churches were organized in the county, one at Bethel, Fredonia, LaFayette, Flint Hill, Antioch, Sardis and perhaps others. Several Baptist preachers in the meantime having settle in this and adjoining counties, their churches were enabled to select suitable pastors and were supplied with regular preaching. The increase in membership in the various denominations during those early years in the history of Chambers county was mostly from emi-

gration. Not many new members joining. There was at that time unfortunately a want of that Christian courtesy among the members of the different denominations which should exist among Christians everywhere, an which I am glad to know is improving in this day and time. The sectarian prejudice which then existed some times showed itself in the pulpit, especially among the less cultivated class of preachers, by making scurrilous remarks about the faith or usages of those of other churches, and that sort of sectarian preaching was not confined to any one denomination. These things are a hindrance to the spread of Scriptural holiness anywhere and everywhere, and were to some extent a hindrance to the spread of Christianity at that time.

At the time above named the rules on the subject of dress, established by the early Methodists, were still in the Methodist discipline, and while the members, especially the younger ones, paid but little attention to them, there was a class of preachers who held us as rigidly to them as the Jews of old did to the tradition of their elders, and who could but seldom preach a sermon without saying something about dress, and that often in an offensive manner. But fortunately for the Methodist church, the members of the law-making department of that church saw the folly of such rules and repealed all law on the subject of dress, which relieved their members from the lectures on that subject from that class of preachers.

During these years the Rev. Cyrus White, of the State of Georgia, a Baptist minister of good ability, who had adopted the Armenian view of the atonement, and had separated from the regular Baptist and established a church of his own, who were familiarly called Whiteite Baptists, visited this county with some other preachers entertaining the same views and preached throughout the county. They met with some success in the south-eastern part of this county. They met with very bitter opposition from the regular Baptists, who, in forming their churches, were careful to see that no one joined who did not subscribe to the old Calvinistic confession of faith. After the death of Mr. White his denomination dwindled for the want of preachers to sustain their views. But notwithstanding Mr. White's comparative failure in producing reform in his original church, it is the belief of this writer that the preaching of Mr. White and his followers was the means of waking up an interest

in the Baptist church, which led to a permanent split, causing two denominations, Missionary and Anti-Missionary Baptist churches. The more intelligent and enterprising portion of the Baptist church, though they did not go off with Mr. White, they saw that other religious denominations around them, especially the Methodists and Presbyterians, were doing so much more for the kingdom of the Master than they were, by sending the Gospel to the heathen and looking after the children of their own community, who were ignorant of the word of God, and that the Baptists as a denomination, were not doing their duty in these respects. Such members commenced to advocate the cause of both missions and Sabbath Schools, which met with stubborn opposition from all who were opposed to progress or to depart in any degree from the customs of their fathers. And like some of the old Methodists were about dress, thought it sacrilege to depart from the customs of their fathers in any matter pertaining to the church, however trivial those customs might be. The differences of course led to a permanent separation, and we now have the Missionary and the Anti-Missionary Baptist churches. Since the separation the Missionary Baptists, like all other Christian denominations, who send out missionaries and sustain Sabbath schools are aiding in spreading the Gospel of the Son of God throughout the world and are seeing the glory of the Lord prospering in their hands.

It is gratifying to me to know that I have lived to see the day when all denominations of Christians, who believe that Christ died for the salvation of all the world, can lay aside their particular church professions and work together as brethren for the Master's kingdom and the salvation of sinners.

VI

The first family that ever lived in what is now the town of LaFayette was that of John Atkins. Mr. Atkins was a resident of West Point, Ga., at the time the selection of the county site for Chambers county was made. He was a carpenter by trade and had but recently married. He at once determined to settle at said county site, believing it a good place to follow his trade. Accordingly in the month of August, 1833, Mr. Atkins, with some hands to assist him, went to said county site, which was then in its natural forest, cut down timber and built him a comfortable log house,

and soon after completing his house moved his family to the same.

This scribe was then living in West Point, Ga., and was reading law, and desired to look out a suitable location for the practice after admission. As such he rode out to the new county site one evening to look at the place and surrounding country, while Mr. Atkins was building his house and found him just completing covering the same. This was late in the evening. I spent the night with him. After supper he and his assistants by bed time had hewed some puncheons which they had prepared out of split logs for flooring, sufficient for us to sleep on. So, with our saddle blankets for bedding, John Atkins and myself slept the first night in the first house that was ever built in what is now the town of LaFayette, Alabama. In a short while after Mr. Atkins moved his family to his new residence, W. H. H. House, Clerk of the Circuit Court, also built a house and moved there. Then followed Henry T. Dawson, from Butts county, Ga., and James Thompson, late of Jefferson county, Ala., who was then Judge of the Chambers county court. The above named four families were all the white families that were living at said county site, at the sale of the town lots, which sale was had on the 23rd day of October, 1833. Said sale was largely attended and the lots all sold at fair prices. A number of those who purchased lots at this sale, commenced building as early as possible, and the town built up rapidly. But one difficulty in the way of improvement was a want of sawed lumber. But in the meantime Messrs. Spencer and William George built a saw mill on a small creek four miles west of town, which furnished builders with plank for floors and door shutters, but the most of the early built houses were of logs.

At the sale of lots Mr. Goodridge Driver purchased the lot on which Dr. Frederick is now living, and as early as practicable, built a house thereon and opened a hotel, which was the first hotel built in LaFayette. Mr. Driver afterwards enlarged his buildings and continued to keep a hotel up to the time of his death. Mr. Lewis Daniel at said sale purchased the lot and afterwards built the house now occupied as a hotel by Mr. Jesse O'Hara. Mr. Daniel occupied the same as a hotel for one or more years then sold it. The house has changed hands a number of times since, but most of the time has been occupied as a hotel.

Before Mr. Daniel built his hotel, there was a log building with several rooms in it on the lot D. G. Allen and family now reside, which was kept as a hotel by Henry Kellam, Esq., but which was used only as a family residence after Mr. Daniel built his hotel. James T. Livingston, about the same time, built him a hotel on the lot on which the Bank of LaFayette now stands, which he occupied as such for one or two years, and which was kept as a hotel by his successors until a few years before the lot was sold to the Bank company.

The population increased in 1834 and 1835 to several hundred. The first death that ever occurred in LaFayette was that of Miss Sarah Gipson, a most excellent young lady, who was an inmate of the family of Dr. Thomas Russell. She died from the effects of measles early in 1834, and hers is the first grave ever dug in LaFayette cemetery.

The first couple that was ever married in LaFayette was that of Augustus H. Cunningham and Miss Nancy McDonald, both of the town of LaFayette. The rites were celebrated by the Hon. James Thompson. This being the first couple the Judge had ever been called on to marry, and he being very formal in all he did, excited some curiosity in the minds of the young men in town to witness the performance. This scribe had the honor of being one of the few who witnessed the ceremony, which was well performed, with the exception of a little blunder which the Judge committed in a portion of the ceremony, which served for the young people to laugh about for some time after.

The first physicians that settled at said county site were Thomas R. Russell, Augustus Owen, Cuthbert G. Hudson, P. T. Richardson, Jesse Boring, Ed. Bacon, Samuel Thompson, P. M. Shapard, Lanier Bankston. These did a good practice while they remained in LaFayette. The attorneys who were early settlers at LaFayette are as follows: this scribe was admitted to the practice of the law by the Superior court in LaGrange, Troup county, Ga., in the month of September, 1833, and on the first day of October, 1833, engaged board with John Atkins and claimed what is now LaFayette as his place of residence, and has lived in or near said town ever since, being the first attorney that ever settled in Chambers county. But in a few weeks thereafter came L. B. Robertson, then George D. Hooper, Mathew

Phillips, Robert Baugh, James E. Reese, and a little later G. W. Gunn, James W. Harris and J. J. Steiner.

The above all settled in LaFayette and while they remained here did a fair practice. Leroy Gresham read law in LaFayette in 1834 and engaged in practice but soon after moved to Dadeville, where he continued in practice until his death. Besides the above, there were several attorneys who visited LaFayette in 1834, and 1835, with the view of permanent location, but who after a few months residence changed their minds and left. Among these were Mr. Weisner, from Franklin, Tenn., who returned to Tennessee, after a few months residence in LaFayette. Nathaniel Harris and James Johnson, from Georgia, lived here a few months. Mr. Harris moved to Montgomery, Ala., and after a few years died there. Mr. Johnson moved to Columbus, Georgia, and after several years successful practice, was elected to Congress, and afterwards in the days of Reconstruction, was Governor of the State of Georgia. George W. Gunn moved to Tuskegee, Alabama, and was engaged in a lucrative practice for several years; was also elected to the Senate of Alabama from Macon county, one or two terms. J. W. Harris returned to the State of Georgia and J. J. Steiner to the State of Ohio, from whence he came.

Several of the above named attorneys were men of high order of talent. But I have not attempted to eulogize any of them. I have not even mentioned the titles some of them bore. I have simply given the names of the first physicians and attorneys who settled at LaFayette in its early days, that, as a matter of history, the present and future generations may know who they were. It is a sad reflection to this writer to know that not one of the above named physicians or attorneys are now living except Hon. George D. Hooper, who is now living in Opelika, and myself.

VII

Mr. Editor: I made a mistake in a name in my article of last week. It was Stephen Daniel that built the hotel now occupied by J. J. O'Hara instead of Lewis Daniel. The latter resided on the lot now owned by Col. J. M. Oliver and occupied by Mr. Conine.

At the sale of town lots in October, 1833, several persons bought lots on the public square on which, at an early day, they built store houses and commenced merchandising. The first of them were Moss & Newberry, Heard & Sanders, Crayton & Finlay, McLemore & Haden, and after them J. W. Bachelder, Jonathan Johnston, B. Lloyd & Bro., J. S. Mitchell & Co., McMorris & Anderson, Lewis Schuessler.

Most of these did well. While some made failures, others have made fortunes. Of the early settlers in LaFayette a majority of them were members of some church, favored morality and did what they could to encourage education and to build up good schools and churches. As such LaFayette, from its earliest settlement, has sustained a good character for the morality and for the promotion of education and Christianity, superior to most of the towns of its size in the State. At an early day a good building was erected in the eastern part of the town for a Female Academy. A Mr. Loyd, an Englishman by birth, but a fine scholar and good teacher, was employed as principal. After some two years he left and was succeeded by Mr. LaTaste, who was also an excellent teacher. He served about two years, then he removed. These were both excellent teachers and those who patronized them got the worth of their money in the improvement of their children. About the same date a building was erected in the southern part of town for a Male Academy. After an unsuccessful effort to get suitable teachers, the Academy was by common consent turned over to the East Alabama Presbytery of the Presbyterian church. They elected a Mr. McKinney from the State of Pennsylvania as Principal and Messrs. William and Robert Hall, of Troup county, Ga., as assistants. During their continuance as teachers no town in the State had a better school. But after about two years Mr. McKinney's health failed and he had to quit teaching. He was succeeded in said school by a Mr. Woodroe, who was a fine scholar and good teacher, but from some cause, failed to meet the expectations of the patrons, the school declined and he left. From that time the educational facilities were unsettled. We had several good teachers but their schools were not permanent. A frequent change of teachers is a bar to success in any school.

During these years the moral position of the community had much to contend with. During the year 1834 the Methodists

and Baptists both organized churches in LaFayette. But their Membership was not large, nor their ministers above mediocracy and who were content to preach the truths of the Bible as they understood them, without controversy with any one as to creeds. But in 1834, one Spencer J. McMorris, a Universalist preacher, settled in LaFayette. He was a man of some learning and some experience as a debator, and full of self-conceit and seeing the orthodox churches had no ministers qualified to enter into learned discussion on theological questions, commenced lecturing on his peculiar views of Universalism, and challenged any and all denominations for public discussion, and as no one accepted he claimed it was because his arguments could not be answered. This gave encouragement to infidelity, for while Mr. McMorris was himself a man of upright deportment, his doctrines gave encouragement to infidelity, caused the irreligious portion of the community to stay away from church and caused them to be less susceptible to the truths of the Gospel when they did go than they had been before. But while McMorris was bantering for discussion there came to LaFayette a Mr. Barnes, a Baptist minister, a man of good learning, a good speaker and about as vain of his own abilities as a debator as McMorris was. He accepted McMorris' challenge for debate. The subject for discussion was, "The endless punishment of the wicked." This writer heard the entire debate, which lasted several days, but heard nothing new on either side. A repetition of old hackneyed arguments was the result, and if the mind of any man or woman was changed on the subject this writer never heard of it. After hearing the entire debate this writer came to the conclusion that each of said speakers desired more to make a reputation for himself, as a public debator than he did for the views of the doctrines he was advocating, and entertaining this opinion, gave me a contempt of both men, which I have never been able to overcome. After this McMorris move to Wetumpka and remained there until his death. Barnes, soon after this debate, espoused Campbellism, or the doctrine of water—regeneration and withdrew from the Baptist church and removed to parts unknown to this writer. These things operated against the spread of Christianity and success of the true teachings of Christ, which otherwise would have attended the preaching of the word of God, so that there were not many accessions to any church in LaFayette except by letter for the years 1834 and 1835. Both Methodists and Baptists commenced the erection of good church houses in 1835 and suc-

ceeded in getting up the hull of good framed buildings so as to use them for church purposes, but these were not finished as they should have been for some years after. But it is with gratitude to the giver of all good that I can now state that no town of its size in the State of Alabama has better churches, and whose pulpits are filled with abler preachers than those of LaFayette are at this time. Nor has any town in the State better school facilities than LaFayette College now affords. The faculty of teachers is first class from the President down. The average morals of the inhabitants are equal to any in the State, and the health of LaFayette is unsurpassed by any town in the State.

VIII

Most of the present inhabitants of Chambers county have heard that as early as the years 1835 and 1836 there was a company formed composed of many of our best citizens, which was known and called the Slick Company, who took the law into their own hands and administered punishment upon whom they thought deserved it. But not many of them knew the cause which led to the formation of said company. That I will relate.

In the years 1835 and 1836 so many negroes ran away from their owners who could not be heard of afterwards, induced the belief that they were decoyed off by thieves and sold in other States. This belief was strengthened by the discovery of several caves in the upper part of Chambers and the South-eastern part of Randolph county. These were not natural caves but caves dug in very secluded places, not near any public road, some of them large enough to hold several persons, and which showed signs of having been but recently occupied for some purpose. This caused a number of our best citizens, men of property and respectability, to form themselves into a vigilant company to ferret out and detect and punish the thieves if discovered. Upon investigation all concerned became satisfied that there was a gang of thieves operating through upper Georgia and Alabama, engaged in stealing negroes and horses and running them off to Mississippi and selling them, and that these caves were used by them in which to conceal stolen property, especially negroes for a short time, moving them off at night from one cave to another, until arrangements could be made to carry them off. It was

found to be the plan of said thieves to propose to a negro man if he would run away from his owner and come to them, they would take him to Mississippi or some other slave State, sell him for cash and give him one-half the money, which would be sufficient to enable him to get to a free State, they promising their assistance to enable him to do so. By that means they had decoyed off many whose owners never recovered them.

Upon the discovery of the above state of things several parties were arrested and tried by the Slicks, by a court of their own. Some were found guilty of being concerned by giving aid to traveling thieves and were severely punished by whipping. Some parties living near where these caves were found were notified to leave the country, which they did without waiting for investigation, while a few families left without notice soon after these investigations commenced. Thomas G. Liles, of this county, had, before this company was formed, lost a likely negro fellow. The company arrested a man by the name of McClendon in Randolph county as a suspicious character and while he was in custody and before trial a portion of the company disguised themselves and took McClendon from the guard who had him in custody. This was in the night. They took him off, tied him to a tree and whipped him until he told where Liles' negro was in Mississippi, and Mr. Liles went immediately to Mississippi, and got his negro and brought him home. After that whipping and confession they gave McClendon leave of absence without further trial, on the condition he would leave this country, which terms he gladly accepted, and I have never heard of him since.

Up to this period of their history the Slicks were popular. They had doubtless rendered the country valuable service in scaring off a set of local thieves who were giving protection to a set of itinerant thieves who were passing through the country and stealing and carrying off our property. But unfortunately they did not stop, but believing there were still others belonging to the thieving gang they kept up their organization. At the time of the Circuit Court held in LaFayette, Fall term 1837, one Herring and his wife came to LaFayette and stopped at a hotel kept by Mrs. Elizabeth Reed, a widow lady. Herring was a suspicious character. The impression at once became common that Herring had come to court to prosecute some of the Slicks for some of their acts of violence. That enraged the Slicks and it

was soon proposed to arrest Herring and punish him. But court was in session. The matter was discussed freely. Court adjourned about the middle of the afternoon. By that time many of the crowd in attendance on the court, as well as some of the Slicks, had drank whiskey enough to make them believe they could arrest and punish Herring in defiance of the Circuit Court or its officers. There was over one hundred persons in town. By 4 o'clock in the evening the gathering had become a mob, determined to arrest Herring and whip him. This spirit prevailed, although many of the more prudent of the Slicks remonstrated against entering the hotel, as they had to do to get him out. Mrs. Reed forbid their entering the hotel. Mrs. Herring, with shot gun in hand, threatened to shoot any one who entered the house, but the rush was made. She fired the gun, but missing the nearest man, the contents of the gun struck a Mr. Johnson who was about ten yards from her, the shot striking the forehead at the edge of his hair and scraped the skull, but did not enter, only cutting the skin on top of his head. I saw him hunting a doctor a few minutes after. He bled freely but was well in a few days. The mob entered the house and after diligent search found Herring concealed in the garrett of the hotel. One James E. Blan, a house carpenter in LaFayette, went and got his hand axe, and after splitting off the ceiling of the garrett of the house, he and others pulled Herring down and delivered him to the mob. Neither Johnson nor Blan belonged to the Slick company. But the former, like many others, was following up to see what the mob would do, come near being killed. While Blan, regarding the Slicks as a popular party at that time wanted it to appear that he was one of them and a leader of the company, pushed himself forward and helped capture Herring. Herring was taken by the mob into the public square and tied to a tree in front of the courthouse door, about where the south gate of the courthouse enclosure now stands, and then received thirty-nine lashes on his bare back, well laid on with a new cowhide in the hands of John Bean, Esq., who was the first Coroner for Chambers county, and was several term Bailiff of the Grand Jury of Chambers county. Herring was then discharged, with notice to leave this section of country as soon as possible, which he did. Herring never attempted to seek any personal revenge from those who whipped him nor did he bring any suit for damages, but left the State and went to Texas. But unfortunately for the Slick Company, they were sued by Mrs. Reed for the assault on her

house and her guest against her remonstrance. Her attorney had the venue changed from Chambers to Montgomery county, where, on trial before an unbiassed jury, a verdict for several thousand dollars was recovered of the defendants, which was collected. Many of the parties sued were men of property and could not make payment, while some who were most prominent in engaging in the mob left the country with their property without paying their part of the damages, leaving the better class of the defendants to foot the bill.

The above is a true history of the original Slick Company which once existed in Chambers county, but which was dissolved by the heavy judgement recovered against them.

I was living in the county when the Company was formed and when it was sued. I saw Johnson shot and Herring whipped in the defiance of Sheriff, Solicitor and Circuit Judge. That the Slicks rendered the country valuable service for awhile by running a set of thieves out of the country much sooner than it could have been done by process of law, no one can deny, but not stopping at the proper time, got themselves involved in a troublesome lawsuit and having to pay heavy damages for the violence of others, which some of them were, at the whipping of Herring, trying to prevent, but belonging to the Company were made liable.

I write the above as a caution to all who may read it against taking the law into their own hands. Better let the law take its course. Justice may be slow, but had those parties used the same diligence to detect and bring to justice the thieves they were after that they did to arrest and punish them themselves, they would have accomplished their object in a short time and have avoided the annoyance of a troublesome lawsuit and the payment of a heavy penalty. Let the law take its course. Better to execute the law than to violate it.

IX

Mr. Editor:—It was my intention when I wrote No. 8 of Reminiscences that that should be the last, but at the request of several friends I have concluded to write one or two more numbers about the incidents of the war with the Creek Indians in 1836.

The trouble between the United States and the Creek tribe of Indians in East Alabama, occurred in the Spring of the year 1836. The first notice we had at LaFayette of hostilities on the part of the Indians was their killing a man by the name of Harper, in the south-western part of Chambers county. Mr. Harper had been a citizen of Harris county, in the State of Georgia, for some years, but in the Spring of 1836, came to Chambers county, Ala., and built him a house in the South-western part of the county, on the head-waters of Sandy Creek, where there were then more Indians than white people, to which he moved his family. About the first of April of that year, if my memory of dates be correct, news reached LaFayette that the Indians had murdered Harper in his own house. His body was brought to LaFayette and buried in our cemetery. This scribe helped bury him. Whether Harper's family were at home at the time I cannot now state, but whether they were or not, no one was hurt but him. Immediately after this murder we began to receive news daily of depredations committed by the Indians in the counties of Russell, Barbour and Macon, where the Indians were more numerous. That caused a general alarm throughout the county, and about the fourth day after the killing of Harper, persons living South and West of LaFayette brought their families to LaFayette for protection. On the day of the general scare they commenced coming to LaFayette about 2 o'clock in the evening and by night the town was full of people. A council was held and it was thought best for the time being that the women and children, for the night, should be placed in the court house, which was then so nearly completed that it could be occupied and the men should stand guard. By sun-down there were two or three hundred men in town. We formed ourselves into some two or three companies and each elected a captain and commenced drilling. Most of the men had one or more guns of some sort, and a little ammunition. Just before this occurrence Gen. Elias Beall, of the State of Georgia, had brought a stock of goods to LaFayette and opened a store, and was here himself, while his family remained in Georgia. Gen. Beall was a fine military officer and took great pride in military display. He was by common consent requested to take command of the whole of us, and acted as our colonel, to which he readily consented. Taking charge of the several companies, sentinels were placed on guard about half a mile from the courthouse, on each of the public roads leading into town, while the balance

of us were kept under arms and drilled by Gen. Beall until near bed time. We were then permitted to disband for the night, which we did, but did not retire to rest, but gathered in squads and discussed the conditions of our surroundings and to determine what we should do on the morrow. Sleep was hardly thought of by us. The weather was pleasant and the moon shone bright. It was a lovely night so far as the weather was concerned. But the condition of our families was sufficiently critical to keep us awake and to cause us to give credit to any and all unfavorable reports about the Indian hostilities.

About midnight Gen Beall concluded he would try the pluck of his men as he called it, accordingly went to the courthouse and informed the women (for they, like most of the men, were wide-awake) that he was satisfied there was not the least danger of any attack by the Indians, but that he was going to cause an alarm to test the pluck of his men, and for them not to fear, that the alarm would be false. This of course was kept from the men. He then sent out a relief guard on the road leading South-west from town with instructions when he reached the post of interest for the sentinel to fire off his gun and to come in town in haste and report that the Indians were approaching. In a short time the report of the gun was heard and in a few minutes the sentinel arrived and reported the approach of the Indians. Whereupon Gen. Beall was out on the public square calling on his men at the top of his voice to rally and form into line. The drum was beating and men running in every direction. Companies were soon formed and Col. Beall in command, kept us under arms and parading up and down the several streets in LaFayette the most of the balance of the night. The next morning the women reported that when the alarm was given at least ten or a dozen men, instead of forming in line of battle, as called to do by their officers, ran up into the court room among the women and children and hid under the benches in the court room. All those who were known to be guilty of such cowardice, were of course held in the future by both men and women in contempt, as being too cowardly to protect their own families.

On the next morning it was thought best for those who had families to remove them east of the Chattahoochee river. Accordingly every sort of carriage that could be obtained was brought into requisition and our wives safely carried into Georgia, east

of the Chattahoochee river, and their care and comfort provided for among friends, and we returned to LaFayette to protect our homes and property.

About two days after our return from the removal of our families, we received a message from our friends in Dudleyville, Tallapoosa county, that they were fearful of an attack from the Indians and asked our help. A call was at once made for volunteers, and about twenty of us who had horses volunteered our services. We organized by electing the Rev. Benjamin Lloyd, who was an excellent military officer, our captain, and marched off for Dudleyville. We arrived there about sun-set, and were kindly received by the men who had remained there to protect their property, who provided ample supplies both for us and our horses. They informed us that their fears had been excited by two Indians being seen en route from the neighborhood in which Harper had been killed to an Indian settlement North-east of LaFayette, who, up to that time, had been friendly, and they feared those North of us might be induced to join them, and the consequences be serious.

The people of Rudleyville had built them a snug little fort, into which we entered after supper. Our captain having placed his sentinels, gave each of us our positions at the several port holes around the fort and instruction how to act in case of an attack from the Indians. We were permitted to rest at our post, which we did until at a late hour of the night. Several voices were heard, apparently a half mile distant, resembling the war whoop of the Indians. Believing it to be such, we were at once called to our posts, and so remained the balance of the night, but no enemy approached. The next morning on the call of the roll it was found that one of our company, a young man by the name of William Fannin, was missing, and had not been with us in the fort that night. This created a suspicion that there was something wrong. Upon inquiry it was found that Fannin and two other young men of Dudleyville had caused the alarm. As we were a volunteer company, without authority of law, we could not inflict any punishment on Fannin for unmilitary conduct. But by a unanimous vote we expelled him from our company and refused to let him march with us back to LaFayette. Before we left Dudleyville that morning we received reliable information that the two Indians referred to had been interviewed by a white

man, who understood their language, and had been informed by them that they were sent by the Indians on Sandy Creek to see a Mr. Doyle, a white man, who had an Indian wife and had been living for years on the Oseliga creek, and had a mill on the shoal where Ward's mill now stands, to inform him that for several days past a number of armed white men had been daily passing through their midst, and to learn from him what it meant. They did not know but that white people might kill them, as a matter of revenge for the killing of Harper. When we heard this we returned home satisfied that the few Indians in Chambers county were worse scared than we were. About the time we returned from taking our families east of the Chattahoochee river, an order from Governor C. C. Clay, then Governor of Alabama, reached Col. Chas. McLemore, who was then Col. Commandant of Militia of Chambers county, directing him to call out a sufficient number of the Militia of his county to protect their families and property from the depredations of the Indians. Under this call four companies were raised, one at LaFayette, who elected W. H. House, then clerk of the Circuit court, their Captain; one at Fredonia, who elected J. F. Sharpe their Captain; one at and below Cusseta, who elected the Rev. Moses Gunn their Captain, and one in the Western part of the county, who elected Gen. Green Talbot as their Captain. These companies were ordered to meet at a fort which had been built in the extreme South-western corner of Chambers county, near the corner of the counties of Russell, Macon and Tallapoosa counties and called Fort Henderson, in honor of Col. Henderson, on whose land, it was built, there to be mustered into the United States service for three months. On their arrival at said fort. Capt. Talbot and his company, for reasons satisfactory to themselves, refused to be mustered into the service of the United States and disbanded and returned home. The other three companies were mustered into service for three months. Capt. House's and Sharpe's companies remained at Fort Henderson, but Capt. Green's company was ordered to the South-east corner of Chambers county, where they built them a small fort on the Hallawakee creek near where Floyd's mills now stand, which they called Fort Gunn, in honor of their Captain. These three companies remained in service until hostilities closed and were honorably discharged. They were awhile in the service under the immediate command of Maj John C. Webb, who was next in command to Col. McLemore. Maj. Webb was an excellent military officer and had the imme-

diate command of the troops and stayed with them at one of the forts or was with scouting parties most of the time. They had no fighting to do, but their presence in the Indian settlements had the desired effect to keep the Indians in this part of the Creek Nation in check so as to prevent any damage being done. The Indians were removed West of the Mississippi river in the fall of the year 1836.

I will write next on the causes of the Indian war of 1836.

X

I promised in my last to write in my next article on what I considered caused the war between the Creek tribe of Indians and the United States in the State of Alabama in the year 1836.

What caused said war is a question much more easily asked than answered. To answer correctly one must know something of the surroundings of that tribe of Indians. They had been a large and warlike tribe and originally occupied a large territory. But by the results of the war of 1815 their territory was reduced in boundary by the State of Georgia on the east, and to the eastern line of Pike and Montgomery counties, on the lower part of their territory and the Coosa River of the upper part of their territory on the West. This narrow strip of country constituted the Creek territory from 1815 to the time of said war. Here these people were born. It was the land of their fathers. They had the attachments for the home of their birth that, history, both sacred and profane, teaches us is common to the human family. These people constituted no exception to that rule. The common Indian was unalterably opposed to removing to any other country or giving up their home here. But as the country, both in Alabama and Georgia, began to be settled to the Indian territory the white people began in various ways to intrude on the Indians. Large hunting companies went on their territory and killed up the deer and turkey which were their main supply of meat. Many settled among them, so that by the Spring of 1832 it was plain to all intelligent Indians that the white people intended to have their lands. A council was held and a delegation of Chiefs were sent to Washington to see the President to see what could be done to prevent further intrusion by the whites. While there on the 24th day of March, 1832, a

treaty was constituted between the United States and said Chiefs by which the latter deeded to the United States all their territory in Alabama. But knowing the strong opposition of the common Indian to removal, their Chiefs were careful to have it provided in said treaty that lands should be surveyed by the United States and each Indian, the head of a family, should have as a homestead a half section, 320 acres of land and the Chiefs a section, 640 acres. The treaty further provided that each Indian might sell his reservation after location, if he desired to do so, or if he preferred to remain on it, after five years he should receive title thereto. This provision for a time was acceptable to the common Indians. But as soon as the lands were surveyed and while the agents of the government of the United States were locating the Indians on their respective reservations, companies were formed for the purpose of buying up said lands for speculation, and to aid them in their purchases. Stores were established in nearly every neighborhood, where there was a settlement of Indians, with stocks of such goods as suited the Indians, including an ample supply of whiskey. These speculators commenced buying up the lands as fast as the Indians would sell them after location—the Indians knowing but little of the value of land. Many of them sold for very small sums and that in some instances paid in whiskey and dry goods at large profits. While these proceedings were being had the Indians were becoming idle, and in the year 1835 they failed to cultivate their patches of corn as formerly and the Spring of 1836 found them without the means of subsistence. The white people had settled among them and killed up the deer. Many of them had spent the money, or what they had got for their lands and they found themselves on the point of starvation. Land gone, money gone, and they were compelled soon to leave the home of their birth empty handed and to move to a strange land they had never seen, without hope of ever again seeing the land of their fathers, it is not strange that these things should have begotten in them a spirit of revenge. Their savage nature prompted them to such revenge. Their hatred was against the white man. It was the white man that had gotten their lands and their money and was then compelling them to move from their native land. They did not discriminate between the speculator who had gotten their lands for a trifle, and the settler who had paid the speculator a fair price for a home to live on, but when they reached the point of revenge, killed the first man they could. Harper was

a quiet citizen but was in a neighborhood surrounded by Indians and was their first victim in this county. I have no thought there was any other than that feeling of revenge that caused the death of Harper and of other depredations committed by them in the counties of Russell, Macon and Barbour. There was at no time any regular organized Indian army. Their Chiefs knew they were too weak to fight the United States and did not formerly declare war against the United States. But they could not restrain the common Indian from committing depredations on the white people and their property in private. The trouble lasted only a few months. General Jessup, with a few United States Troops, were ordered to collect the Creek Indians at Tallassee in Tallapoosa county, Alabama, which he did in the early fall of 1836, and moved them to the Indian territory west of the Mississippi river. This writer having professional business with some of their Chiefs, visited Tallassee while they were in camp. While there and passing among their camps, I had an opportunity to see with what reluctance they were leaving their native land. I saw some weeping and was informed by an interpreter it was because they had to leave the home of their birth and to move to a strange land. That caused me to think of the strong attachment that is common to men for the home of their birth. I thought of Joseph, who was sold by his brothers into bondage and there for a time badly treated, yet that did not cause him to forget the land of his birth. Nor did his great promotion afterwards, to one of the first offices in the Egyptian government, estrange his feelings from the home of his fathers. But, so strong was his attachment to the land of his birth, that in his old age, with a prophetic eye he looked forward to the time when his kindred, who were then in bondage in Egypt, should return to the promised land, that he gave commandment that his body should be embalmed and his remains carried back to the land of his birth for burial. But here was a nation of people by a superior power driven from the land of their birth to a strange land that they had never seen, without any hope of ever returning to their native land. I think the ways of Providence are to us mysterious and past finding out. Many of those engaged in buying up Indian reservations made large fortunes in a short time. Most of these land speculators died some years ago. While but few of them lived to be old, most of them outlived their fortunes, and but few of them left their heirs wealthy. The government of the United States carried out its treaty stipula-

tions in removing said tribe of Indians to the Indian Territory where they are better off than had they remained in Alabama. While their former territory is occupied by the Caucasian race who are developing, not only the material resources of the country, but are educating the masses and teaching the principles of Christianity throughout the land.

A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF LA FAYETTE, ALABAMA

By Anne Elizabeth Newman

A first-time visitor to LaFayette, passing down streets overhung by great old trees, might quickly and rightly conclude that it is an old town. Located near the center of Chambers County, in the central-eastern part of Alabama, not far from the Georgia line, in the southern extension of the Piedmont Plateau, it stands at an altitude of 843 feet on the dividing ridge that separates the Chattahoochee and the Tallapoosa waters. There is nothing outstanding in the topography of the surrounding country: The land is somewhat rolling, there are some hills, and the soil varies.

Chambers County, which is named for a man born in Virginia but an early resident of Alabama, was one of the counties formed from the territory ceded by the Muscogees, the upper Creeks, and created by an act of the legislature December 1832. This act only defined the boundaries of most of these counties and in a general way made provision for their government. At a later date there was created for each county the office of court house commissioners.

In January 1833 the legislature elected James Thompson of Jefferson County judge of the county court, whereupon he came to Chambers County to effect its organization. The election was held in March 1833, at which W. H. House was chosen clerk of the circuit court, Joseph J. Williams clerk of the county court, and Nathaniel H. Greer sheriff. The three court house commissioners selected were Baxter Taylor, James Taylor, and Thomas C. Russell. John Wood, Booker Lawson, John A. Hurst, and William Fannin were elected commissioners of revenues and roads. At the first court held by these commissioners (April 1833) the following officers were elected: John Edge census enumerator, John Bean coroner, William McDonald surveyor, Elisha Ray county auctioneer—an important office in that day—and Captain Baxter Taylor treasurer.

The duty of the court house commissioners as prescribed by the act of legislature creating the office, was to name the county

seat, where this had not already been done, obtain title to land for a court house, a jail, etc., and additional land to be sold to raise money for the erection of public buildings. These official duties were performed in Chambers County. It is said that the first county seat was fixed seven miles northwest of the present site of LaFayette, at the home of Daniel Taylor, but this location was not permanent. Under act of Congress a hundred and sixty acres were set aside, the town site was surveyed, the locations of the court house and the jail were determined and on October 23, 1833 a public sale of lots was held. They sold well, bringing "satisfactory prices," and enough funds were realized to pay for the court house, which was completed in 1836, and for the jail.

This settlement, situated in a primeval forest and growing rapidly, was called by various names before receiving its present designation: Chambersville, Chambers Court House, and Fayetteville. When the country was afire with enthusiasm over the visit of its friend of the Revolution, the Frenchman, on his last trip to America, the Georgia committee escorted him to the Chattahoochee River and entrusted him to fifty unclothed painted Indians under Chilly McIntosh. These warriors took General LaFayette across on a ferry, then pulled him in a sulky eighty feet up a hill and delivered him to the Alabama reception committee. After that visit, when the settlers chose a name it could but be LaFayette. The postoffice, however, was Chambers Court House, the town LaFayette, until Colonel J. J. McLemore, postmaster, made application in 1876 to have the postoffice share the name of the town.

Most of the first settlers came from Georgia; a few were from the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Virginia. The greater part of them were of the rude pioneer mould; adventurers, fugitives from justice back home, land speculators, Indian traders, etc. The strength of these newcomers, however, were a determined, hardy people, hoping that a new country would offer them better opportunity to own homes and advance their interests than did the place that they had forsaken.

The original court house, twenty feet square, was made of pine poles and had a dirt floor. There was a crude raised platform at one end for the judge's seat. Old county records

show that at the first session of the grand jury the foreman was indicted for a misdemeanor in violation of the whiskey law—giving or selling whiskey to an Indian. This log court house, built within a stockade, was the place of refuge when the Indians threatened to break out. Mothers came from outlying homes bringing children and negro nurses and sought protection night after night, while their husbands kept watch. There is a story that once when some of the men came inside frightened the women threatened to tie aprons on these husbands and leave them to care for the children while the women themselves acted as sentinels. The men returned to duty. This log structure which answered the purpose of a temporary court house for two years served as a community center and as a church for all denominations that wished to use it. After the sale of lots a more comfortable and substantial building was begun and saw completion in 1836. The present court house is of red brick with marble trimming. It was finished in 1900, costing \$30,000; now it would be estimated as a structure worth several times this amount. It was on the southeast corner of this court house lawn that the Argonne oak was set out—an oak sent the town of LaFayette by the French government just after the first World War and now grown to a large tree. The setting out of this tree was attended by ceremony, with Judge W. B. Bowling presiding and a large crowd present.

The original log jail, put together with long iron spikes, later bricked inside and out, almost baffled the workmen who razed it in order to erect the present brick, steam-heated building.

There are no extraordinary occurrences in the history of the town and county. There was the degree of lawlessness customary in a new settlement, but the inhabitants kept to their tasks. The land was cultivated, villages arose, and after some years schools were established, mainly, if not entirely, private schools. There were the Baptist Female College and the Methodist Ashbury College, which attracted girls from Montgomery, Talladega, and other places. Oak Bowery Institute was another school that enjoyed more than local eminence. The Methodist Ashbury College, a building of Colonial architecture, was torn down and was succeeded by Shepherd Hall. The education of the boys was provided for in the Boy's Military Academy, which belonged to the town and the county. It was scrapped and sold when the

LaFayette school was built. LaFayette College was chartered December 9, 1886, though it had been founded three years previously. There were two issues of a school publication, **LaFayette College Sunbeams**. After the establishment of high schools about over the state the name of the institution was changed to LaFayette High School.

The Baptist and Methodist denominations were represented among the pioneers. So far as there is any record, the first church to be established was the Baptist Church at Welsh, called **Bethel**, and founded in 1832. The Methodist church in LaFayette was organized in 1833, with three members, and the building was erected in 1837. The Baptist church had its beginning in 1834, with eleven members. The Presbyterians organized at some later date. Whatever prejudice existed in the early days when there were denominational schools is now entirely gone and the different church groups cooperate harmoniously and "dwell together in unity."

The weekly paper has appeared under various names. In 1842 **The Chambers County Times** was being published. In 1863 the newspaper was called **The Chambers Tribune**; later it was **The Chambers Democrat**. For awhile two papers existed together: **The LaFayette Sun** and **The Leader**. The lone surviving weekly publication of the county seat is **The LaFayette Sun**.

A railroad, first called the East Alabama and Cincinnati was surveyed and built during 1870 and 1871. It later became the Central of Georgia. Samuel Spencer as a young man helped to survey this road, he who later became president of the Southern Railway and to whose memory a monument stands near the Union Station in Atlanta. The LaFayette Branch Railway was built to Opelika in 1894 and 1895 by local capital and operated eight or ten years.

In 1919 LaFayette capital began the construction of a cotton mill near one edge of the corporate limits. It was taken over by the Shenandoah Cotton Company of Utica, New York and began operation in 1922. Then came a time when the spindles were idle for a considerable period, in fact, till the mill was purchased by the Avondale Mill Company in 1932 and operation was resumed.

A stranger passing through LaFayette and noting the many dignified residences of Colonial architecture and the modern homes set in well-kept lawns or in spacious grounds of trees, grass and flowers might correctly deduce that here reside a people who take pride in their homes and their community. Among the antebellum homes is the old mansion of the late J. R. Dowdell, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama, set far back from the street in its own park. It is interesting not only for those who have resided there, but also because of its notable architectural characteristics. The Andrews home, just south of the Baptist church, said to date back to the forties, has history locked up in it. During the last fighting of the Confederates, men were stationed on its high flat roof to discern the approach of troops. Once when it was thought that the tired Confederates were coming, hams were brought out to be cooked on large scale in big pots in the yard, pastry was prepared, and flowers were picked. It was the Yankees, however, who came, but before their arrival some things were saved and the few carriage horses left in town were hurried to hiding-places in the swamps. The McLemore home became a possession of the family in 1878, but was built in the fifties. It was once photographed for the Library of Congress. Some years ago, if one approached through the colonnade of cedars, climbed the high steps and gained entrance, he could find within this home old furniture, interesting vases, enormous oil paintings, a great oil portrait of the grandfather, swords of the soldier brothers, statuary, and two gallant sisters of the McLemore clan who embodied the culture and grace of their tradition. This old home, which for some while had been standing unoccupied, has just recently been torn down. Thus one of the ancient landmarks of LaFayette has been removed, but the old order gives way to the new.

Among the handsome residences of later years in the Mose Allen home, a tall brick edifice with turret-like projections, which from its hill site surveys the grassy slope and grove extending down to the street. It might pass for a small college set back on its campus. Another of the places of interest is the Colonial home of Honorable J. Thomas Heflin, ex-senator and orator. It stands in its snowy whiteness on a hillside overlooking a wide extent of country. Many other homes in LaFayette may claim one's attention—the older ones for their interest and charm, the modern ones for their attractiveness.

Besides two justices of the state supreme court, a Congressman and a senator, LaFayette has furnished other notable and successful men. The most famous one in the first part of the nineteenth century was Johnson Jones Hooper, author, humorist and newspaper editor. In 1842 he published humorous articles and political sketches in **The Chambers County Times**. He was the author of **Simon Snuggs**, which first came out as a serial in the LaFayette paper. This book, republished in 1881, but now out of print, gave Hooper a position among American humorists and secured him praise from Thackeray. Reverend Sam P. Jones, famous evangelist, was born twelve miles south of LaFayette. The town can claim also Dr. J. W. Ham, once pastor of the Baptist Tabernacle in Atlanta, and George Muse, who established in Atlanta the clothing firm that bears his name.

When King Cotton was in power and merchants furnished tenants with supplies till harvesting time LaFayette was a busy and thriving market for the outlying agricultural section. In those days there were a number of families and firms of considerable wealth. In the intervening years the wheel of fortune has made its revolution. Outsiders and new families have moved in, there is less self-complacency than there used to, be and the town is more democratic. One may feel confident, however, that there will ever be those who, whether they remain at home or go afar, will wear proud hearts while they cherish the cultural traditions of LaFayette.

LaFayette, Alabama, 1949.

